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Thursday
23rd May, 1952

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

OFFICIAL REPORT

(Part I - Questions and Answers)

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Members Sworn [Cols. 2—18].

PARLIAMENT SECRETARIAT
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THE
Dated 18.11.2014
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Thursday, 23rd May, 1952

The House met at a Quarter Past Eight of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

RURAL DEVELOPMENT UNDER FORD FOUNDATION ASSISTANCE

*122. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing:

(a) the work actually being done under the Ford Foundation Assistance in connection with what is called "Intensive Rural Development Programme";

(b) the location of five training centres under the scheme with description of kind of training;

(c) the fifteen intensive development projects with description, cost, and time of implementation; and

(d) the funds allocated to the training centres and the projects or their estimates?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 33]

FORD FOUNDATION SCHEME

*135. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) how many training and extension projects have been set up under the agreement made between the Ford Foundation and the Government of India;

(b) where these projects have been located; and

(c) whether trainees have been selected?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Two training-*cum*-development and three development projects have been recently opened out of 13 so far sanctioned.

(b) *Training-cum-development projects*—

1. Agricultural Institute, Anand, Bombay.
2. Visveswaraya Canal Farm, Mysore.

Development Projects—

1. Kukatpalli (5-6 miles from Hyderabad City).
2. Bhandson, Tahsil Nabha, PEPSU.
3. Rangia in Kamrup District, Assam.

(c) The States are proceeding with the selection of trainees.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know, Sir, on whose initiative the scheme has been launched and what is the financial assistance which India gets from foreign countries?

Shri Kidwai: The total cost of this project is Rs. 1,19,000—Rs. 56,000 capital and Rs. 63,000 recurring expenditure. As is evident, the initial cost of the first two years will be met by the Ford Foundation.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know, Sir, if before the launching of the scheme for the benefit of the rural population, some experts of Indian rural life were consulted?

Shri Kidwai: They are consulted at every stage.

Shri S. N. Das: What is the minimum qualification expected of a candidate selected for training at these centres?

Shri Kidwai: These trainees are in the employ of the State Governments and each State Government will lay down its own qualifications.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether instructors for these training centres have already been appointed?

Shri Kidwai: Not yet. All that will be done by the State Governments.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know by what time these trainees will be in a position to give education to the rural areas actually?

Shri Kidwai: As I have said, the centres have been selected and the trainees have been chosen by the State Governments. It will depend upon the nature of work that each State wants to have from its employees.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: Is it not a fact that five centres are already running and persons are receiving training?

Shri Kidwai: Five centres have been selected and candidates are being selected by the State Governments.

Shri S. N. Das: What is the basis on which these centres have been selected?

Shri Kidwai: The centres have been selected on the recommendation of the State Governments.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Will the Government kindly let us know the names of some of the Indian experts who have been consulted in connection with this scheme?

Shri Kidwai: I will require notice of that question.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know the distinguishing features of these development projects from the community projects?

Shri Kidwai: This is for development of agriculture and training will be given in intensive development of agriculture, and introduction of new methods which experience in other countries and some parts of India have proved to be successful.

Shri N. R. Naidu: Is it proposed to locate any of these five centres in Andhra, where instruction may be given in the regional language?

Shri Kidwai: The statement gives the location of the five centres.

Jonab Amjad Ali: Will Government enlighten us as to the nature of the superintendence which the Centre will have over the State Governments regarding the execution of this plan?

Shri Kidwai: There will be a committee which will send its men to each centre to see whether the training that is given is according to the plan.

Non-Departmental Anchal Masters

*123. **Shri Velayudhan:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Non-Departmental Anchal Masters of the Travancore-Cochin State were placed on the same footing as the Post Masters when the integration took place with regard to salary and allowances; and

(b) what are the salary and allowances paid to the Non-Departmental Anchal Masters who are now Branch Office Post Masters?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) No, they were placed on the same footing as extra-departmental branch postmasters, to whom they correspond.

(b) They are allowed the same emoluments as extra-departmental branch Postmasters, but have been given the option to continue on the ex-State emoluments.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether this order has been brought into effect and they are drawing the salary sanctioned by the order?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Orders have been issued.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether the orders have been given effect to?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: That information I have not got with me.

Orders have been issued and there will be no difficulty in their drawing the salary sanctioned.

Eastern Zone (Railways)

*124. **Shri Velayudhan:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the regrouping of the Railways of the Eastern Zone has been carried out or not;

(b) how far the Government have met the demands put forth by various interests against the regrouping of E. I. Railways; and

(c) where the new Headquarter of the Eastern Zone is situated?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes.

(b) The Sealdah Division and the loop sections of the Howrah Division have been included in the Eastern Railway.

(c) Calcutta.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware that there was a change in the regrouping system from what was announced on the floor of the House last April by the former Minister of Transport and also the decision arrived at by the Central Advisory Council for Railways?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Yes, there were some changes. Discussions took place between the Railway Ministry and the State Governments and after consultation they decided to have six zones, as published in the Press and mentioned in the explanatory memorandum of the Budget.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir, whether the employees of the E. I. R. have expressed any concern regarding their transfer to the Gorakhpur station which has been made the present headquarters of the regrouped railway.

Shri L. B. Shastri: An assurance has already been given that no person will be transferred without his consent.

श्री जांगड़े : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय बतलायेंगे कि पूर्वी रेलवे को कितने विभागों में विभक्त किया गया है, और हर डिवीजन के हैडक्वार्टर्स कहां कहां हैं ?

[Shri Jangde: Will the hon. Minister state as to how many Divisions the Eastern Railway has been divided into and where are the Headquarters of each Division situated?]

श्री एल० बी० शास्त्री : पूर्वी रेलवे में दो खास खास हिस्सेमि लाये गये हैं। एक बी० एन० आर० दूसरा ईस्ट इंडियन रेलवे का वह हिस्सा जो कि लखनऊ मुरादाबाद और इलाहाबाद डिवीजन को छोड़ कर बाकी रह जाता है । उसका हेडक्वार्टर कलकत्ते में है और उस के कई डिवीजन हैं।

[Shri L. B. Shastri: The Eastern Railway has been formed by regrouping two particular sections. It comprises B.N.R. and that portion of East Indian Railway which remains after separating the Lucknow Moradabad and Allahabad Division. Its Headquarters is at Calcutta and it has several Divisions.]

श्री जांगड़े : पूर्वी रेलवे का मध्यप्रदेश में जो डिवीजनल हैडक्वार्टर है वह कहां है ?

[Shri Jangde: Where is the Divisional Headquarters of Eastern Railway situated in Madhya Pradesh?]

श्री एल० बी० शास्त्री : इसके लिये नोटिस चाहिये ।

[Shri L. B. Shastri: I require notice for that.]

Shri Dhulekar: May I know whether the schemes for the covering of railway platforms already decided upon by the Government will be affected by this regrouping and be discussed again or whether they will stand?

Shri L. B. Shastri: They will stand.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know what are the other demands put forward by the business interests, Provincial Governments and the various associations?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Several demands were made by various interests and all of them were taken into consideration. The matter was discussed with the Chief Minister of Bengal and other States. Of course no complete agreement has been arrived at, but most of the States have agreed to the regrouping we have decided upon.

Shri Meghnad Saha: Is the hon. Minister aware that before the Railway Administration was taken over by the Central Government it was under a Railway Board and the main principle of the Railway Board was that the Railways should be administered in the interests of technical and business efficiency?

Mr. Speaker: He is perhaps giving information rather than asking for it.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know which are the States which did not agree to the decisions that were arrived at? He said 'most of the States'.

Shri L. B. Shastri: Well, every State has practically agreed. There

is a difference on one or two points, especially in regard to West Bengal.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: What are the points of difference and which are the States which have disagreed?

Mr. Speaker: I think it will be too long a question to be put in.

SUGAR PRODUCTION

*125. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of sugar produced in India during the year 1951-52; and

(b) the total quantity of *gur* produced in India during the same period?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) 13·50 lakh tons upto 30-4-52.

(b) 27,44 lakh tons (estimated).

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the production of sugar and *gur* in 1951-52 has increased over that in 1950-51?

Shri Kidwai: Yes, it increased because the cultivation of sugarcane had increased by almost 20 per cent during the last two years.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the Government of India has suggested to the sugarcane producing States to reduce the prices of sugarcane and, if so, whether that advice has been accepted by all the sugarcane-producing States?

Shri Kidwai: Yes, several suggestions for the reduction of cane prices were made, but the Governments concerned thought that it would adversely affect the income of the agriculturists.

Shri Dabhi: What are the normal annual requirements of the country of sugar and *gur*?

Shri Kidwai: The normal requirement of sugar is about one million tons, but I am sure that if the price is reduced the requirements will increase.

Shri Pocker Saheb: May I know whether Government expects more production in 1952-53 so as to be able to export sugar from India?

Shri Kidwai: There is no export of sugar because the production costs here are higher than those in any other country.

Shri Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether Government would think of decontrolling sugar in the near future?

Shri Kidwai: The sugar position today is such that it can be decontrolled, but the question is that the cane had been purchased at a very high cost and if all the sugar is sold in the free market, perhaps both the millowners and the Government will suffer a great loss. Therefore we are trying to find some export market, and the present-day situation will be taken into consideration when the next year's prices are fixed.

SUBSIDY FOR CONSTRUCTING WELLS IN SCARCITY AREAS

*126. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have given subsidy to any State for constructing wells in scarcity areas;

(b) if so, to which State or States such subsidies have been given; and

(c) the total amount of money given as such subsidies to different States?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) Uttar Pradesh. Proposals from certain other States which suffered from scarcity are under consideration.

(c) Rs. 24,00,000.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know how many wells are proposed to be constructed in U.P. this year?

Shri Kidwai: They propose to construct 6,000 wells.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether any portion of the expenditure will be met by the State Governmental source?

Shri Kidwai: I think so, but I would require notice.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the cultivators are also required to share the expenditure and, if so, what would be their share?

Shri Kidwai: Cultivators are given *taccavi* loans in some cases.

Dr Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the reasons which led the Government to abandon subsidising the construction of wells in non-scarcity areas?

Shri Kidwai: Nothing has been abandoned. The normal procedure for providing water for irrigation is being carried on. But this is specially for the scarcity areas.

पंडित ए० आर० शास्त्री : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय यह बतायेंगे कि जो उत्तरप्रदेश की मांग है कुंवों के लिए, वह कुंवें किन जिलों में अधिकतर बनाये जायेंगे ?

[Pandit A. R. Shastri: Will the hon. Minister state in which districts will the wells asked for by Uttar Pradesh mostly be situated?]

श्री किदवाई : वह वही एरिया है जहां से आनरेबिल मैम्बर तशरीफ लाते हैं ।

[Shri Kidwai: It is the same area from which the hon. Member hails.]

گیانی جی - ایس - مسافر : کیا پنجاب سرکار نے ٹیوب ویلس کے لئے سرکار هند سے کچھ قرضه مانگا هے -

[Giani G. S. Musafir: Has the Punjab Government asked for any loan from the Government of India for the construction of tube-wells?]

Shri Kidwai: I think there is some scheme, but I cannot give any reply off-hand because this is not concerned with tube-wells.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Is not Bihar a scarcity area?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Is Government aware that the biggest hurdle in the way of the U.P. Government maintaining the programme of well construction is the inability of the Government of India to supply wagons for the proper movement of the raw materials?

Shri Kidwai: Yesterday the Chief Minister of U.P. mentioned it to me, that supplies of cement and other materials is held up, and I am looking into it.

सेठ गोविन्ददास : उत्तर प्रदेश के सिवाय और किन किन प्रदेशों पर विचार किया जा रहा है। माननीय मंत्री जी ने अभी कहा था कि और भी कुछ प्रदेशों के सम्बन्ध में विचार किया जा रहा है ।

[Seth Govind Das: In what other States besides Uttar Pradesh is the construction of tube-wells under consideration? The hon. Minister has just stated that the case of some other States is also under consideration.]

श्री किदवाई : जिन जिन प्रदेशों ने दरख्वास्त की है उन पर विचार किया जा रहा है ।

[Shri Kidwai: The cases of those States which have made applications are being considered.]

FIVE-YEAR PILOT SCHEME

***127. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Five Year Pilot Scheme has been drawn up by Government for the immobilization of the Rajputana desert; and

(b) if so, what is the estimated cost of the scheme?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) Rs. 3·17 lakhs during the first year.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the chief features of this Pilot scheme?

Shri Kidwai: If the hon. Member requires it, I can lay the full literature on the Table. I can distribute it among the Members.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Does this scheme envisage arresting the advance of the Rajputana desert and at what cost?

Shri Kidwai: The present scheme is for 5 years with the possibility of extension for another 5 years.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What is the cost of carrying out this scheme?

Shri Kidwai: For the first year it will be Rs. 3,17,000 and the total cost is estimated to be Rs. 12 lakhs.

Shri Kasliwal: May I know whether any consultations in this connection have taken place with the Government of Rajasthan?

Shri Kidwai: Of course.

SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY LABOUR UNION

***128. Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the South Indian Railway Labour Union's recognition has been withdrawn by the General Manager of the S. I. Railway and if so, why;

(b) whether Government propose to place on the Table of the House a statement showing the respective membership of the recognised Labour Organisations at present on the Southern Railway system and the membership of the South Indian Railway Labour Union at the time of withdrawal of its recognition; and

(c) whether Government propose to restore recognition to the Labour Union in view of its large membership and representative character?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes. The recognition of the South Indian Railway Labour Union was withdrawn in March 1949, in consequence of the Union having indulged over a period of years in activities subversive to discipline, including sponsoring illegal strikes.

(b) A statement giving the information is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 34]

(c) The matter is under examination on a reference from the General Manager of the Southern Railway.

Shri Nambiar: The figures placed by the hon. Minister on the Table of the House show that the Workers' Union having a membership of 13,500 and another union having a membership of 1,500 have been recognized. May I ask why a union which has 20,000 workers as members is not recognized? The facts are laid on the Table of the House.

Mr. Speaker: He need not repeat all that agrument over again.

Shri L. B. Shastri: I have already made it clear that it was recognized before but the recognition was withdrawn because of its activities and because the Union more than once in one year launched four illegal strikes.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether strike notices have been issued under the law existing or whether it is a strike without a strike notice?

Shri L. B. Shastri: No proper notice was ever given.

Shri Veeraswamy: May I know whether it is a fact that in a recent election to the Canteen Committee of the Golden Rock Railway workshop, all the nominees of the S. I. Railway Labour Union were returned with a thumping majority?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He is trying to argue out the matter. He may ask for information on the particular point. He will still get an opportunity to ask that question when the Budget comes in for discussion.

Shri S. V. L. Narasimham: May I know whether the majority of the directors elected to the Co-operative Credit Society run by this Railway are Members of the S. I. Railway Labour Union?

Mr. Speaker: Again it is an argument to say that the orders passed were not proper. It is no use. He does not ask for any information. On the other hand, he is giving information in support of a particular view that the action of Government was wrong or high-handed. What is the information that he wants now? He can get that information while advancing his argument in the budget discussion. In any case he will have another opportunity.

Shri S. V. L. Narasimham: I only wanted to ask whether it is true that the majority.....

Mr. Speaker: In that way, a clever lawyer that he is, anything can be put in the form of a question.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Is it a fact that large sections of workers of the Railway have been continuously demanding the restoration of the recognition?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Yes. This particular Union has been asking for it and they have said in the reply that the General Manager has made a reference here and the matter is under consideration.

Mr. Speaker: We will go to the next question. When a representation is made and it is under consideration. I do not think it will advance the interests either of justice or of the people concerned to put any questions in Parliament and try to examine and cross-examine the Minister concerned. The best course is to take up the matter either with the Minister privately or to raise a discussion when an opportunity for discussion comes in. More often than not, I am afraid the case is likely to be misjudged by the questions raised. They are just mixed up with political issues and with party issues. If hon. Members keep in mind the limitation that the question hour is intended for eliciting information on the basis of which they can come to conclusions or put further questions or base arguments, then, I think a lot of supplementaries that are put in on questions of this type would be saved.

SUPPRESSION OF TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES ON SOUTHERN RAILWAY

*129. **Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the S.I. Railway Labour Union has made a written representation to the Railway Board dated 27th March, 1952 concerning "suppression of Trade Union activities" on the Southern Railway;

(b) if so, whether a copy of the said representation will be placed on the Table of the House; and

(c) what action the Railway Board has taken on the representation?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes.

(b) It is regretted that copies of such departmental correspondence cannot be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) In accordance with the policy followed in these matters no action is taken by the Railway Board on communications received from unrecognised Unions except on matters relating to their recognition.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether it is a fact that 6 executive secretaries of the Labour Union were transferred 300 miles away from their posts for the reason that they had taken part in the trade union activities?

Shri L. B. Shastri: They were not transferred because they were office bearers of this union, but they were transferred on administrative grounds.

Shri Nambiar: May I know why this 6 executive secretaries of the Union were alone transferred for administrative reasons whereas thousands of others were left alone?

Mr. Speaker: Can the hon. Minister answer it now?

Shri L. B. Shastri: It is difficult to answer this question.

Shri Nambiar: I have the names of these secretaries. . . .

Mr. Speaker: It is not necessary. The hon. Member can write to him and ask for the information. Next question.

TELE-COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE AT JABALPUR

*130. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of recurring and non-recurring expenditure in building, establishing and maintaining the Tele-Communications Centre at Jabalpur;

(b) the number of trainees who can take up a regular course of training in the Centre and the time which each trainee shall take in completing the training;

(c) whether the trainees will be admitted in the Centre and maintained at Government cost or they will have to bear their own expenditure of training etc.; and

(d) whether the trainees are required to give any undertaking to the Government?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Non-recurring Rs. 21;40 Lakhs. Recurring: Rs. 6;91 Lakhs.

(b) 300 at a time. The length o the courses ranges from 3 to 12 months for various categories of trainees.

(c) The trainees are not required to pay for the cost of training. Direct recruits are paid by Government a suitable monthly allowance. Departmental officials receive their usual pay and allowances.

(d) Yes, except Assistant Divisional Engineers and Departmental candidates.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know who provides the syllabus or the course of study for the Centre, and is the Centre its own examining body?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I think the syllabus is provided by the Ministry, and, of course, the officers are the examiners.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know what is the reason that the Centre has been located in Madhya Pradesh and that too in Jabalpur?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Does it require an answer?

Mr. Speaker: We will go to the next question.

FOOD SUBSIDY

*131. **Shri B. R. Bhagat:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for abolishing food subsidy to the States; and

(b) whether this step was consented to by all the States?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Attention is invited to Finance Minister's speech in the House of the People on 20-5-52 in connection with the debate on President's address.

(b) The position was explained in detail to the State Ministers at the Food Conference held in February 1952. The State Ministers were generally of the view that there was no help against the withdrawal of subsidy. They, however, pressed that milo may be subsidised a little more liberally and this the Government of India have since done.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: May I know whether the reports crediting the hon. Minister for food and Agriculture with favouring the reinstatement of food subsidy in some form to lower the prices of foodgrains without committing the Government.....

Mr. Speaker: I do not propose to allow this question.

Shri H. N. Shastri: What steps, if any, do Government propose to take to remove the hardships inflicted upon the low paid income groups as a result of the abolition of food subsidy?

Shri Kidwai: In some towns, there has been no increase in the prices of foodgrains. In some places the rise or fall in the cost of living index automatically affects the dearness allowance. In some other places we are taking steps to see that the price of foodgrains is reduced.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: May I know whether the Government intend to reconsider the restoration of subsidies, and if that is not possible, at least in the scarcity areas like Rayalaseema and the contiguous areas of Mysore?

Shri Kidwai: Whatever is required to give relief in the scarcity areas is being done. The food subsidy question was only about a certain number of industrial towns. As the hon. Member comes from Mysore, he should know that in Mysore, prices have been reduced.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Only wheat prices have been reduced.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Pataskar: Is food subsidy paid to surplus States also?

Shri Kidwai: Food subsidy was given for a number of towns, whether they were in surplus or deficit States.

Shri Pataskar: My question is whether food subsidy is being paid to States which are surplus in foodgrains.

Shri Kidwai: Food subsidy is not paid to any State which is surplus.

Shri V. B. Gandhi: Is it a fact that the Government of Bombay has represented that all restrictions on inter-state movement of foodgrains should be abolished and a uniform policy of procurement all over the country should be adopted?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is no use asking this. These are facts which are well known. Practically, the hon. Member is trying to argue.

Shri Radhelal Vyas: May I know the towns in Madhya Bharat where milo is being subsidised by the Government of India?

Shri Kidwai: Milo has been given to each State on reduced prices. It is for the States to decide where to distribute that.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: May I know whether a Conference of Food Ministers of the States is going to be called, and if so, whether this question is going to be examined?

Shri Kidwai: I do not think there is any proposal immediately before the Government to convene any meeting of the Food Ministers.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Jute Cultivation

*133. **Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) what is the average yield of jute per acre in the principal jute-growing States;

(b) what are the reasons that have so far hampered a higher yield;

(c) what steps are being taken to improve the yield; and

(d) whether during the current year the target of production is contemplated to be achieved by bringing more land under cultivation or by adopting effective methods for higher yield?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Average yield of jute per acre during 1951-52 was:—

	Lbs. Per annum.
Assam	1005
Bihar	785
Orissa	959
West Bengal	1064

(b) Weather conditions mainly.

(c) (i) Distribution of improved seeds.

(ii) Distribution of fertilisers.

(iii) Construction of retting tanks.

(iv) Establishment of seed multiplication farms.

(v) Conduct of subvention trials and demonstration of methods of line-sowing.

(d) The target of production for 1952-53 is proposed to be achieved both by extensive and intensive cultivation.

Shri B. K. Das: What has been the highest yield per acre in the past, in those areas?

Shri Kidwai: I will require notice of the question.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Will the hon. Minister tell us the area of paddy-growing land which has been given over to jute cultivation?

Shri Kidwai: I will require notice of the question.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know what proportion of our jute requirement is met by local production?

Shri Kidwai: I require notice.

Mr. Speaker: I think there were a number of questions on this subject in the last session. If hon. Members will only care to refer to the old proceedings, they will get all the information.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether any enquiry has been conducted in Travancore-Cochin as to the possibility of cultivating jute there?

Shri Kidwai: I require notice. I am not aware where jute has been tried and it has failed and where it has not been tried.

पंडित ए० आर० शास्त्री : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय को मालूम है कि उत्तर प्रदेश के पूर्वी जिलों में भी ऐसी भूमी है जिस में जूट की पैदावार बहुत अच्छी होती है ? क्या उसकी खेती बढ़ाने की कोई कोशिश हो रही है ?

[Pandit A. R. Shastri: Is the hon. Minister aware that there is a certain kind of land in the eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh which yields a good crop of jute? Is any effort being made to increase its production?]

श्री किदवाई : यह तो मुझे मालूम है कि वहां कुछ जूट पैदा होता था, लेकिन वह बहुत अच्छा है इसकी कोई तफ़सील नहीं है। उत्तर प्रदेश गवर्नमेंट खुद जूट की पैदावार बढ़ाने की कोशिश कर रही है।

[Shri Kidwai: I know that there was some jute cultivation there but it is not known whether it is of a superior quality. Uttar Pradesh Government is itself trying to step up jute production.]

GANGA-BRAHMAPUTRA TRANSPORT BOARD

*134. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state:

(a) what are the functions of the Ganga-Brahmaputra Transport Board recently appointed by Government;

(b) what is the non-recurring and recurring expenditure involved; and

(c) whether the Board has begun functioning?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to my reply to starred question No. 49 by Shri A. C. Guha given on the floor of the House on the 20th May 1952.

(b) The Central Government have already made a contribution of Rs. 2 lakhs to the Board in 1951-52 and include a similar provision in the budget for 1952-53. Contributions are proposed to be maintained at this rate during the period of the Five Year Plan. The State Governments concerned are expected to contribute each Rs. one lakh per year.

(c) The Board will be meeting shortly to formulate its programme of work.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether any survey was made before the appointment of this Board regarding the possibilities and potentialities of these rivers for transport purposes?

Shri L. B. Shastri: A survey has been made and information collected in regard to the possibilities of navigation in several rivers.

Shri J. N. Hazarika: Has the Government felt it necessary to make any

arrangements with the Government of Pakistan to work out this Brahmaputra transport system affecting the States of Assam and West Bengal?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I shall require notice.

Shri A. C. Guha: In the statement that was supplied to me it was stated that some Inland Steamer companies are also interested in this Board. May I know what those Inland Steamer companies are and whether they would make any contribution to this Board?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I require notice.

PASSENGER AMENITIES COMMITTEE

*136. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a special passenger Amenities Committee has beer formed for each of the Railways;

(b) if so, what will be its functions; and

(c) what will be the constitution of this committee?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) A passenger amenities committee has already been set up on the Central Railway and arrangements are being made to form similar committees also on other Railways.

(b) The functions of these committees will be to examine collectively the recommendations of all the Local Advisory Committees of a Railway or those emanating from the Railway itself or from other sources in regard to the provision of passenger amenities and to advise the General Manager on the necessity and the order of priority of the various amenity works.

(c) The committees will consist of the General Manager, the Heads of the Engineering, the operating and the Commercial Departments and two or three members from each of the local Advisory Committees of the Railway.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether this Committee will involve any extra expenditure?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Of course; T.A., D.A., etc., will involve extra expenditure.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know the composition of this committee?

Shri L. B. Shastri: If the hon. Member puts down a question, I shall answer.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether representatives of Trade Unions will be represented on this committee to give advice on the various amenities that could be provided with the cooperation of labour?

Shri L. B. Shastri: No decision has been taken so far; but I propose to consider the matter.

PRODUCTION OF FOODGRAINS BY MECHANICAL POWER

*137. **Shri Jhunjhunwala:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state the total quantity of foodgrains produced on land cultivated by mechanical power and what its percentage is compared with total production of foodgrains?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Estimates of foodgrains produced on land cultivated by mechanical power are available in respect of the areas taken under the Grow More Food Campaign only. In such areas, the total production of foodgrains from mechanical cultivation was about 2 lakh tons in each of the years 1949-50 and 1950-51 forming about 0·5 per cent. of the all-India production of cereals. Similar estimates for 1951-52 are not yet available.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: What is the comperative cost of production by mechanical power and by other ordinary handpower?

Shri Kidwai: I require notice of that question.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: Has the Government compared the results obtained by intensive production by ordinary methods with those by the mechanical method?

Shri Kidwai: Of course, the cost must have been compared. But I have not got the information here before me. The question was only about the quantity. It was not presumed that it would lead to cost, comparison etc.

Shri Nand Lal Sharma: What is the total amount of expenditure incurred on the use of mechanical power.

Shri Kidwai: I have not got that.

TREATMENT OF BAMBOOS

*138. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an effective prophylactic treatment

of bamboos for protection against insect attack has been developed at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Yes.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether the process of prophylactic treatment has been developed on an economical and commercial basis?

Shri Kidwai: Well, it has been tried by our army and about the cost there is no mention. I couldn't reply to the hon. Member's question.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether the treatment will be repeated on some kinds of wood?

Shri Kidwai: It has been tried on Bamboo; it will be efficacious on wood also.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, how long the treatment will last and how it compares with the tar treatment?

Shri Kidwai: It has been considered to be an improvement on tar treatment.

Shri J. N. Hazarika: May I know the varieties of bamboos experimented?

Shri Kidwai: I am not much aware of the varieties of Bomboos.

RATIONING OF RICE

*139. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States in India where the people are predominantly rice-eating;

(b) which of the States in India are observing austerity rationing of rice; and

(c) which of the States take the highest ration of rice and the amount of daily ration *per capita* per day?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The States where the people are predominantly rice-eating are:—Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Orissa, Eastern U.P., West Bengal, Mysore, Travancore-Cochin, Coorg, Manipur, Tripura, Andaman and Nicobar.

(b) All the States are observing the maximum possible austerity in the issue of rice. None except habitual rice-eater gets more than 4 ozs of rice ration anywhere in the country.

(c) In the statutorily rationed areas, the highest ration of rice for rice eaters is 7 ozs in Madras, 6 ozs. in the States of Assam, Mysore, Travancore-Cochin, Delhi and Andaman-Nicobar.

Shri S. C. Samanta: With reference to part (b), may I know in which States voluntary austerity rationing is prevalent?

Shri Kidwai: Austerity rationing is confined to rice-eating people.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In view of the shortage of rice, would the hon. Minister be pleased to state if the Government are envisaging any scheme of not supplying rice ration to the States which are not habitually rice-eating and giving it to the States who are habitually so?

Shri Kidwai: In some parts it has been done. In other States the matter has been taken up with them.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar: Has the Government of Madras requested this Government to permit them to issue 8 ounces instead of 7 ounces in view of the fact that in Madras State they do not eat wheat but depend entirely on rice?

Shri Kidwai: I am not aware of any such request. But I understand that the Madras Government is considering the question of raising the rice ration.

Shri N. S. Nair: Are the Government aware that though in Travancore-Cochin districts the ration is 6 ounces, not more than 4 ounces of rice are given to the people at large on an average?

Shri Meghnad Saha: Has the hon. Minister's attention been drawn to the fact that rice-eating States are going Communist and will he consider prohibiting the eating of rice in those States?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar: May I ask the hon. Minister if any attempt is being made to divert wheat that is being supplied to Madras to non-rice eating areas and get rice from Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and other wheat-eating areas?

Shri Kidwai: I am afraid these questions are all suggestions. They do not expect an answer from me.

AIR ACCIDENT NEAR NAGPUR (ENQUIRY)

*140. **Shri A. C. Guha:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether the enquiry into the

recent accident at Nagpur to the night Air Mail plane has been completed?

(b) What are the findings of the enquiry?

(c) Has any action been taken on and in consequence of the enquiry?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Yes Sir. A copy of the Report has been placed in the Library.

(b) The finding is that "the accident was due to error of judgement by the pilot when attempting landing during night. He misjudged the approach, undershot and hit the top branches of a tree".

(c) The Committee made certain recommendations of which a copy is placed on the Table [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 35.]

These have been accepted by Government and are being implemented.

Mr. Speaker: I asked you to read the answer twice. Still we are not able to hear.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I cannot do louder than this, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: As I said, the difficulty is that noises have been going on in the House as a result of talks between Members. But if the House remains quite quiet then the difficulty will be less. There is also another reason, I am afraid, and we shall have to get it examined—that it is difficult always in a loudspeaker to transmit the sound to the back. Therefore, all hon. Members should stick to the rule more rigorously of addressing the Chair instead of addressing the House, apart from the decorum rule. If, therefore, the hon. Minister faces the Chair and if any hon. Member who wants to put any supplementary question also faces the Chair, perhaps the sound will travel better.

Shri A. C. Guha: In view of the fact that there have been three major accidents in this company, have the Government considered whether there is anything fundamentally wrong with the management and workings of the company?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Well, Sir, this accident is being investigated by a Court of Inquiry and we have not received the report as yet. The two accidents which occurred on previous occasions have been investigated and I have said in the answer that the recommendations of the investigating Committee are being implemented. Two Committees have been set up by Government, one to examine the existing operating procedure and practice and recommend such measures as will make the best contribution to safety, and the other is to examine the existing system of air pilot training in all its aspects and recommend steps for its improvement. When the report of the Court of Inquiry is recieved, we will further examine whether there is anything wrong with the operating company.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know, Sir, whether the directive that the question of crew fatigue particularly on night services should be studied in consultation with experts on aeronautical medicine, referred to in Clause (iii) of the recommendations of the Committee of Enquiry, has been observed subsequently and whether the last accident at Delhi was due to the non-observance of this?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: This matter is also being gone into by the first committee. Whether this accident was due to this or not, it is too early to say.

Shri B. Shiva Rao: In the findings of the Enquiry Committee, is there any reference to the number of flying hours put in by this particular pilot, just preceding the disaster?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Here, I have got with me the experience of flying hours in respect of all the pilots; it is a long list. I would only like to say that all the pilots had the necessary experience of flying hours, and were qualified under the license.

Shri B. Shiva Rao: Sir, my question has been misunderstood. What I wanted to know was whether the hon. the Minister has any means of ascertaining the number of flying hours put in by each pilot before the commencement of flight?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Still, the question is not clear.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member's point is whether probably there was an error of judgment in the flying hours, and because of that, the particular pilot was almost overstrained, and had not got previously the necessary rest. His point is whether in this particular case, the pilot who started the flight had had sufficient rest.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I have not got the information just with me, but I shall look into the matter. I shall also see that the pilots get the necessary rest before they are asked by their companies to take up another flight.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is it not true, Sir, that in the Delhi accident, as was stated in the Court of Enquiry, the pilot in question.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order, let us not go into a discussion of the matter.

Shri A. C. Guha: It is the same question. Sir, as to whether the pilot had not had sufficient rest.....

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister has already stated the answer.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know, Sir, whether one of the causes for this accident was lack of ground personnel?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I do not think so, Sir.

Shri A. C. Guha: The hon. Minister has stated that Courts of enquiries have been set up. These two inquiries are about the general working of the Air Companies; but nothing has been stated as to the inquiry into the working of this company. It being a Government concern, have they considered the desirability of having a stricter enforcement of discipline, and the observance of the rules?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Certainly, Sir.

WHEAT (PURCHASE)

*141. **Shri B. R. Bhagat:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state the total purchase of wheat made in the foreign countries during the year 1952 up till April?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): The total quantity of wheat purchased in the foreign countries during the period 1st January to 30th April 1952 is approximately 9 lakh tons.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: May I know, Sir, the different countries from which the wheat was purchased?

Shri Kidwai: 8·59 lakhs of tons from the U.S.A., and Canada 0·5 lakhs of tons. Half of the order has not been required. From the United States of America, about 5 lakhs of tons are to be purchased by December 1952, of which nearly 2 lakhs of tons are to be shipped by the Department by December 1952.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: May I know, Sir, whether this purchase was made under the International Wheat Agreement, or the prices were settled separately in each case?

Shri Kidwai: The purchase was made under the International Wheat Agreement. But from the U.S.A. 4 lakhs of tons are on loan.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: May I know, Sir, whether in view of the limitations of food subsidy which are likely to result in the diminution of the needs of the different States, in the future months, the import is going to be cut down?

Shri Kidwai: It is a difficult question to answer, because the need of the country remains what it was. It may be that on account of the rise in prices, it may go beyond the purchasing capacity of individuals, and therefore the wheat has not been required. But our attempt should be that whatever is needed should be provided at a reasonable price; and therefore it is difficult to foresee what will be our requirement for the next six months.

Shrimati A. Kale: May I know, Sir, for how long we are likely to import wheat?

Shri Kidwai: Until we become the producers of wheat in this country.

Shrimati A. Kale: When do we expect to reach that target?

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: What is the additional amount required?

Shri Kidwai: We have placed the order, Sir, and the delivery will take place by December 6th. We shall require about two million tons.

LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

*142. **Shri B. R. Bhagat:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have evolved a scheme to set up a Land Development Corporation;

(b) if so, the purpose and function of the Corporation;

(c) whether this Corporation will work on a Commercial basis;

(d) if so, what will be its relation with the Government; and

(e) how the finances of the Corporation will be raised?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) to (e) There is at present only a proposal to set up a Land Development Corporation. No decision has been taken as to whether it should work on a commercial basis, what should be its relation to the Government and how its finances should be raised.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: May I know, Sir whether the government are taking any decision on the proposal, either for it or against it?

Shri Kidwai: Some decision has to be taken.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: Some decision has to be taken, one way or the other.

Shri Kidwai: I have not said, 'one way or the other'.

अनाज का उत्पादन

*१४३ । **श्री कन्हैया लाल वाल्मीकी:** खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) वर्ष १९५१-५२ में वर्ष १९५०-५१ की अपेक्षा अनुमान से कितना अधिक अन्न देश में पैदा हुआ है; तथा

(ख) उसी काल में आत्मनिर्भरता योजना में किस सीमा तक सफलता प्राप्त हुई थी ?

PRODUCTION OF FOODGRAINS

[*143. **Shri Balmiki:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate quantity of foodgrains produced in 1951-52 in excess of the production during 1950-51; and

(b) the progress made in respect of the self-sufficiency scheme during the same period?]

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) As the agricultural year 1951-52 will end only in June, 1952, the required data are not yet available. The year's target of additional production under 'Grow More Food', however, is 14 lakh tons over 1950-51.

(b) A statement showing the progress the 'Grow More Food' Schemes during July, 1951 to March, 1952, is placed on the Table of the House [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 38.]

श्री कन्हैया लाल वाल्मीकी : सन् १९५०-५१ की फ़सल को देखते हुए सन् १९५१-५२ की फ़सल में कहां तक अधिकता हुई है उत्पादन में ।

[**Shri Balmiki:** What has been the increase in production in 1951-52 as compared with the yield in 1950-51?]

श्री किदवाई : बाज रकबों में या बाज स्टेट्स में फसल अच्छी है । वहां हम उम्मीद करते हैं कि पैदावार हिसाब के मुताबिक होगी । जहां फ़सल खराब है वहां हिसाब से कम ।

[**Shri Kidwai:** In certain areas or States the crop is good. We hope production will be equal to the estimated yield. In those areas where the crop is not good the yield will be less.]

खाद्य उत्पादन पुरस्कार योजना

*१४४ । **श्री कन्हैया लाल वाल्मीकी :** खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष १९५१-५२ में पुरस्कार योजना के अन्तर्गत किस प्रकार की कृषि वस्तुओं के लिये पुरस्कार घोषित किए गए हैं ;

(ख) भारत सरकार से प्रथम पुरस्कारों के पाने वाले किसानों के नाम तथा उत्पादित वस्तुओं के प्रकार जिनके सम्बन्ध में उन्हें यह पुरस्कार दिये गए ; तथा

(ग) इस योजना का प्रभाव साधारण किसानों पर कैसा पड़ रहा

FOOD PRODUCTION AWARDS SCHEME

[*144. **Shri Balmiki:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the types of produce for which awards were announced in 1951-52 in pursuance of the Awards Scheme;

(b) the names of *Kisans* who received first awards from the Government of India and the types of produce in respect of which they got them; and

(c) how the *Kisans* in general are reacting to this Scheme?]

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Crop Competition awards were announced in 1951-52 for the following:—

(1) Paddy, (2) Wheat, (3) Jowar, (4) Bajra, (5) Gram and (6) Potatoes.

(b) The recipients of awards for 1951-52 have not yet been selected.

(c) The farmers are reacting favourably to the scheme.

श्री कन्हैया लाल बाल्मीकी : क्या यह सच है कि यह इनाम शहरी किसानों को मिले हैं ?

[**Shri Balmiki:** Is it true that these awards have been given to urban *Kisans*?]

श्री किदवाई : यह इनाम हर किस्म की पैदावार करने वालों को मिले हैं ।

[**Shri Kidwai.** These awards have been given to all sorts of cultivators.]

श्री कन्हैया लाल बाल्मीकी : जहां तक जानकारी में आया है यह इनाम ज्यादातर उन किसानों को मिले हैं जो कि अमीर भी हैं और पैसा भी खर्च कर सकते हैं और उनके खेत शहर के आसपास हैं । आम देहात में इन इनामों का कोई प्रभाव नहीं हुआ है ।

[**Shri Balmiki:** From reports available, these awards have been given to those *Kisans* who are rich, who can spend money and whose fields are near the towns. These awards have had no effect in the villages in general.]

श्री किदवाई : मैं शुक्रगुजार हूं इस इत्तला के लिये और कोशिश करूंगा कि और देहातों को भी यह खबर पहुंच जाय ।

[**Shri Kidwai:** I am grateful for this information and would see to it that this information reaches the villages as well.]

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS

*132. **Shri Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the actual procurement of foodgrains during the year 1951-52 has fallen short of the target for the year; and

(b) what were the reasons for this short fall, if any?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) During 1951 a total quantity of 3,770 thousand tons of foodgrains was procured in India against a target of 3,958 thousand tons. During 1952, up to 26-4-52, the quantity procured amounts to 1,927 thousand tons, against the target for 1952, of 3,646 thousand tons.

(b) The shortfall was mainly in the case of Madras, Rajasthan, PEPSU, Orissa and Bombay, it was due to the conditions created by failure of crops in the area.

BIRTH RATE

*145. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state:

(a) what is the birth rate in India;

(b) whether the percentage of birth rate has been increasing and if so, at what rate during the last two decades;

(c) what is the comparative percentage of increase in birth-rate in different States; and

(d) whether there is any planned parenthood scheme working in any part of the country and if so, with what effect?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) The birth rate in India based on information available from Part 'A' States and the Part 'C' States of Delhi, Ajmer and Coorg, during the year 1950 was 24·8 per thousand. The respective figures for the years 1946-49 were 29·2, 26·6, 25·2 and 26·4.

(b) No. The birth rate decreased during the last two decades, *viz.* 1931-1940 and 1941-1950 at the average rate of 0·26 and 0·76 per millennium respectively.

(c) A statement showing the birth rates per thousand of population from 1946 to 1950 in the various States of India for which figures are available, is placed on the Table of the House. It will be seen therefrom that there has been a general decline in the birth rates except in Orissa where there has been an increase at the rate 0·2 per millennium.

(d) Three pilot projects, two in New Delhi at the Lady Hardinge Hospital and Lodi Road Colony and one in Mysore at Ramanagaram Health Unit, based on the "rhythm method" of family planning will start work shortly. The projects are experimental at this stage and are intended for the scientific study of the effects and possibilities of this method of family planning. The question of assessing results will arise only after the projects have been in operation for some time.

STATEMENT

The comparative rates of birth in various States of India.

	Birth rate per thousand.					Annual rate of increase (+) or decrease (—)
	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	
Ajmer.	33.4	38.9	25.7	26.6	29.2	—2.5
Assam.	*18.9	15.6	15.3	15.1	13.1	—6.1
Bihar.	23.0	18.6	18.3	17.7	17.8	—4.5
Bombay.	33 8	33.6	32.5	33.5	31.0	—1.7
Madhya Pradesh.	37.2	34.9	33.2	25.5	28.6	—4·6
Coorg.	18.8	17.8	15.1	17.6	16.9	—2.0
Delhi.	35.5	29.8	25.6	31.2	31.0	—2.5
Punjab(I).	*38 3	32.8	35.0	38.4	38.0	—0.2
Madras.	32.1	33.2	30.8	30.9	29.7	—1.5
Orissa.	28.5	27.8	27.2	26.6	28.8	+0.2
U. P.	25.3	23.3	20.6	22 3	20.9	—3.5
West Bengal.	23.8	19.2	20.4	21.1	18.6	—4.4
Total.	29.2	26.6	25.2	26.4	24.8	—3.0

* Figures relate to the period before partition.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

***146. Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state:

(a) what is the contribution of the World Health Organisation to India during the last three years;

(b) what is their programme of work in India during the year 1952-53; and

(c) what amount they propose to spend on the programme?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) The World Health Organisation have given to India advisory and demonstration services in various fields of health and have incurred on such services an expenditure of $178,208, 242,447 and 399,465 during the years 1949, 1950 and 1951 respectively. A statement showing the particulars of the assistance given during these years is laid on Table. [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 37]

(b) and (c). A statement containing information regarding World Health Organisation programme of work in India for the year 1952 is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 38]

Similar information for the year 1953 cannot be given at present as the World Health Organisation have not so far arrived at a decision regarding their budget for that year.

PROCUREMENT PRICES OF PADDY

***147. Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed a uniform price for paddy procured from various States in India;

(b) what is the procurement price for paddy in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Travancore-Cochin;

(c) what is the approximate cost of production of paddy in each of the States referred to above; and

(d) what is the price Travancore-Cochin had to pay for rice supplied from Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh in 1951-52 per maund?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) No.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 39]

(c) The data regarding cost of production of paddy are not available from any of these States.

(d) No rice was supplied to Travancore-Cochin from U. P. during 1951-52 season. Supplies from Madhya Pradesh are being made from March, 1952 for which the Madhya Pradesh Government will charge the F.O.R. price of Rs. 15/14/3 to Rs. 16/1/6 for Coarse I variety and Rs. 15/2/3 to Rs. 15/5/6 for Coarse II variety.

ALLOTMENT OF FOODGRAINS IN STATES

*148. **Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state the basis on which foodgrains are allotted to the various States?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Allocations under the Basic Plan are made on the basis of relative needs of States for meeting Government distribution responsibilities and the available supply in the Central Pool. The relative needs are determined after taking into account the estimated production, likely procurement, current stocks with the State Government and estimated offtakes.

GOVERNMENT TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, JHANSI

*149. **Shri Dhulekar:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take over fully the management of the Government Technical Institute, Jhansi, attached to the Railway Workshops, Jhansi, from the hands of the Uttar Pradesh Government;

(b) whether Government also propose to develop and enlarge the said Institute; and

(c) if so, the manner in which this is proposed to be done?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) The Government Technical School at Jhansi is not attached to the Railway Workshops, Jhansi, but is owned, financed and run by the Government of Uttar Pradesh. The Government of India has at present no intention of taking it over.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

AGRICULTURAL AIRCRAFT

*150. **Shri M. R. Krishna:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the new Agricultural Aircraft recently built for aerial application of agricultural chemicals?

(b) Is any attempt being made to manufacture the same in India to help the food production?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) I am not aware of any special agricultural aircraft recently built for aerial application of agricultural chemicals. My information is that some of the usual types of aeroplanes are used for anti-pest spraying and for sowing in countries like the U.S.A.

(b) Does not arise.

FOREIGN PLANTATIONS

*151. **Shri Gurupadaswamy:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of plantations belonging to foreigners in India;

(b) the total acreage and value of these plantations; and

(c) the number of labourers employed?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) to (c). The information is not readily available. It will be laid on the Table when collected. The hon. Member is referred to "Census of India's foreign Liabilities and Assets" published by the Reserve Bank of India for valuation of coffee and tea plantations.

FOOD SUBSIDY

*152. **Shri Heda:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state if the State Governments have protested against the Central Government's decision to stop the food subsidies?

(b) What are those States that have supported the step?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). The position regarding subsidy was explained to the State Government representatives who attended the Food Minister's Conference held in February 1952 and the consensus of opinion was that there was no help against the withdrawal of subsidy. The question of protest against or support for the Government of India's decision therefore does not arise.

BHAGALPUR MANDAR HILL BRANCH LINE SERVICE

*153. **Shri Brajeshwar Prasad:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether any progress has been made towards resuming the Bhagalpur Mandar Hill Branch Line service in Bihar?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): The restoration of Bhagalpur Mandar Hill

Branch has been included in the Works Programme for 1952-53 and a sum of Rs. 1 lakh has been allotted for making preliminary arrangements to start the work.

TELEPHONE COMPLAINTS

16. Shri Hukam Singh: Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints regarding wrong numbers were recorded with the Local Complaints in Delhi during three months 1st January, 1952 to 31st March, 1952; and

(b) whether any rebate and if so, what amount was paid for such calls after verification?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Yes.

(b) No rebate in cash is given for such calls. All complaints are verified immediately by testing and credit tickets are prepared by the Engineer-in-Charge where the complaints are proved to be justified.

CREOSOTING PLANTS

17. Shri S. N. Das: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme of setting up Creosoting plants on a regional basis to give preservative treatment to wooden sleepers has been brought in operation; and

(b) if so, how many plants have been installed and the places where these plants have been put in operation giving the estimated expenditure in each case and actual amount spent so far?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri:) (a) The scheme has not yet been brought into operation, but is in the course of being implemented.

(b) Two new creosoting plants will be installed, one at Clutterbuckgunj near Bareilly and the other at Coimbatore North. The estimated cost of the plant at Clutterbuckganj is Rs. 41·14 lakhs and the amount spent so far is Rs. 5 lakhs. The estimated cost of the plant at Coimbatore is Rs. 14 lakhs and the amount spent so far is Rs. 53,000.

"GROW MORE FOOD" CAMPAIGN

18. Shri Jhunjhunwala: (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state what is the total additional quantity of foodgrains which will be produced under the "Grow More Food" Campaign during the period of next five years and what is its percentage to the total production of foodgrains?

(b) What is the total expense the Government of India propose to incur on "Grow More Food" Campaign during this period of five years?

(c) What will be the annual additional production of foodgrains under the "Grow More Food" Campaign during the period of the next five years and what is the annual expenditure proposed to be incurred by the Government of India during the next five years on this scheme?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Under the draft Five Year Plan it is proposed to achieve additional production of foodgrains to the extent of 7·2 million tons, of which 2·3 million tons are expected to result from major irrigation schemes. The additional food production suggested in the Plan amounts to about 16 per cent. of the total production.

(b) According to the Draft Five Year Plan, the Central Government expenditure on Grow More Food is estimated at about Rs. 90 crores.

(c) The additional production and expenditure under the Grow More Food Campaign are, broadly speaking, evenly spread over the period of the Plan.

AIR ACCIDENTS

19. Shri S. C. Samanta: Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) how many air accidents took place in each of the years from 1947-48 up-to-date;

(b) in how many cases enquiry committees were formed and in how many cases departmental enquiries were made;

(c) how many employees were discharged as a result of the enquiries; and

(d) what steps have been taken to avert further accidents?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) The number of accidents involving serious injury to crew or passengers or damage to aircraft was 63 in 1947, 47 in 1948, 32 in 1949, 62 in 1950, 38 in 1951 and 17, up-to-date, in 1952.

I lay on the Table a statement showing the breakdown of these numbers according to different categories of aircraft. [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 40.]

(b) Equiry Committees were appointed in three cases, and in two cases formal investigations were held by Courts constituted under rule 75 of the Indian Aircraft Rules, 1937. In all the other cases, the accidents were investigated by the Inspector of Accidents of the Civil Aviation Department.

(c) No Government employee was discharged as a result of the enquiries. Information regarding the number of employees discharged by the air operators is not available.

(d) The recommendations made by the investigating body in each case were examined and action taken to implement them. I place on the Table a statement generally describing some of the steps taken. [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 41.]

TOBACCO

20. Shri M. R. Krishna: Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state what extent of land is under tobacco cultivation?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): During 1951-52 approximately 7,43,000 acres were under tobacco cultivation according to first forecast.

FREE MARKET SUGAR

21. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state total quantity of sugar which has so far been made available for sale in the free market in the year 1951-52?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): 1,39,842 tons up to 15th May, 1952.

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THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Friday, 23rd May, 1952

The House met at a Quarter Past Eight of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

9-15 A.M.

SAURASHTRA (ABOLITION OF LOCAL SEA CUSTOMS DUTIES AND IMPOSITION OF) PORT DEVELOPMENT LEVY REPEALING BILL.

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to repeal the Saurashtra (Abolition of Local Sea Customs Duties and Imposition of) Port Development Levy Ordinance, 1949, be taken into consideration."

Hon. Members would very likely have read the Bill as also the Statement of Objects and Reasons. It is not necessary for me therefore to take up the time of the House in explaining the provisions of the Bill. The Bill is intended to replace an Ordinance which was passed to repeal certain port levy duties, imposed by the Saurashtra Government for the purposes of carrying out some improvements. That object has now been achieved, and the levies were no longer necessary. An Ordinance has been promulgated to repeal those levies. We are now bringing in this Bill in order to replace that Ordinance.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to repeal the Saurashtra (Abolition of Local Sea Customs Duties and Imposition of) Port Development Levy Ordinance, 1949, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 1 to 3 were added to the Bill.

The Title and the Enacting Formula were added to the Bill.

Dr. Katju: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

DISPLACED PERSONS (CLAIMS) AMENDMENT BILL

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the Displaced Persons (Claims) Act, 1950, be taken into consideration."

The House would be aware that the Displaced Persons (Claims) Act was passed in the year 1950. Its duration was for two years. It received the assent of the President on the 18th May and became law. It was expected at the time that the work of the verification of the claims would be finished within a period of two years. About 10,50,000 claim sheets were received. A claim sheet, according to our definition, means a claim with regard to all the properties situate within the jurisdiction of a Claims Officer. Now, the verification of 10,50,000 claim sheets was by no means an easy matter. These properties are situate in Pakistan. We wanted to exchange records, the municipal records and registration records, but Pakistan was not amenable to that. Displaced persons had entered India under rather difficult conditions and many of them could not bring their title deeds. Therefore we had to undertake a task which is perhaps unique in its difficulties. Our Claims Officers are not in a position to visit the property. In many cases, there is no written document in support of the claim, and the verification has to be done by a method of checks and cross-checks.

[Shri A. P. Jain]

There was another limiting factor. We had to recruit the Claims Officers mostly from among the displaced persons who had some knowledge of the properties left behind. Thus therefore, there was a limitation upon the number of persons whom we could appoint as Claims Officers. We have made every effort to tap all the possible sources. Yet, we could not get more than 300 suitable officers, and as we went on making more and more appointments, I felt that the quality of the Claims Officers was deteriorating and a stage arrived when I thought that it would not be safe to appoint any more Claims Officers. Some hon. Members of this House and newspapers are apt to stress that a larger number of Claims Officers would expedite the work. In a limited sense that is true, but beyond a certain limit a larger number of Claims Officers does not necessarily mean that the work would finish sooner.

The position today is that out of these 10,50,000 property sheets—nearly 1,50,000 relate to agricultural land outside the Punjab. The House would be aware that the land owners of the West Punjab and of Punjabi extraction in other areas of West Pakistan were allotted land on a quasi-permanent basis. That left out the land-owners of Sindh, Bahawalpur, North West Frontier Province and Baluchistan who were not of Punjabi extraction. The claims filed by these persons amount to 1,50,000 property sheets. These claims are being processed by a sub-section of the Claims Organisation separately. Now, that leaves a balance of about nine lakhs of claim sheets. Already, we have verified a little over seven lakhs of claim sheets. That leaves a balance of two lakhs of claim sheets.

It would not be proper to calculate the time that we shall take in verifying these two lakh claims in a strict mathematical way, because now the claims or the property sheets that have been left over relate to composite properties, that is to say properties in which there are a number of co-sharers.

Hon. Members would be aware that we invited claims and wanted that displaced persons should file them within a period of three months, which expired on the 30th September 1950 but the response was rather poor, and we extended the period by one more month, that is, for the whole of the month of October. The response was more encouraging. Yet, even after the last date for the receipt of the claims was over, claims continued to pour in. We went on receiving these claims for 15 months but about the end of January, 1952, a stage was reached when we felt that we could not receive more claims.

Another thing. When the claimant does not appear before the Claims Officer, he would be within his rights to throw out the claim but we do not want to throw out any claims on technical grounds. Therefore, the speed with which we can function depends as much upon the co-operation of the displaced persons as upon ourselves. I know that the verification of claims at an early date means a lot for the displaced persons. I can assure hon. Members that I have been personally looking into all the minor details—details which should not ordinarily concern a Minister—regarding the verification of claims.

We have been accused of delay in verification. I have only to submit that the minimum delay has taken place, judging from the uniqueness of the work which we had to do. At any rate, now we have reached a stage when we can see the end of the labours well within sight. I find that two amendments have been tabled. I might just say a word about them.

Shri Hukam Singh (Kapurthala-Bhatinda): As regards my amendment, there is some mistake.

Shri A. P. Jain: I was going to refer to it.

Those two amendments are actuated by the desire of the hon. Members that the work should be finished soon. I fully share their anxiety. I can assure them that I am as keen to finish this work soon as any hon. Member of this House or as any displaced person. Normally I am not in the habit of giving an assurance at least so far as time limits are concerned. But today I feel somewhat in a secure position, and while I seek the extension of this law for another period of one year, I can assure hon. Members that I am going to complete this work substantially within the next four months. If a part of the Claims Organisation has to be kept thereafter, it will be only for the purpose of tying up the loose ends. When we deal with a problem of this magnitude, there are certain loose ends left, and it is always best to keep a skeleton organisation for the purpose of tying up those ends. The motive which has actuated some of the hon. Members to give notice of the amendments is fully appreciated by me, and I would request them not to press the amendments, because I am going to fulfil their desire perhaps in a shorter

period than any of the amendments contemplate. Certain types of difficulties may arise later on, and if the amendments are accepted, we shall have no machinery left.

An Ordinance was promulgated by the President on the 5th of this month to keep the Act alive. Now it is proposed to give it the shape of an Act and I hope that the House will agree to convert this Bill into an Act.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to amend the Displaced Persons (Claims) Act, 1950, be taken into consideration."

In view of the special nature of the Bill—by which I mean that it is only a one-clause Bill—there are two amendments, which the hon. Minister referred to, and strictly speaking, procedurally, the amendments could be moved when the clauses are put to the House and the discussion will be open then, and the discussion is also competent at the consideration stage. So, I think, hon. Members should appreciate that we shall have one discussion wholly on the small point involved—there is no principle involved, and parties seem to agree—and the hon. Minister promises a much earlier disposal, at least hopes for a much earlier disposal than the movers of the amendments seem to indicate. I am not going to request the movers to press or not to press the amendments—it is their business—but what I would suggest is that we shall have one discussion, and we may have that discussion at the consideration stage, it being distinctly understood that there will be no repetition of the same discussion when the clauses are put. The clauses go in automatically, excepting this, that the hon. Members, if they so choose, will have a chance of moving the amendments; but the discussion will be common.

Shri Hukam Singh: I feel one difficulty in that procedure, as at the clauses stage it will be difficult to refer to all aspects of the Bill and we shall have to confine ourselves to the question of period only. Now we can refer to many matters. We can refer to the working of the verification department, and to other matters also.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is perfectly right in saying that when the amendments are moved, the discussion will be of a restricted character. The character of the discussion on a consideration motion will be wider. Therefore, I was proposing, from both points of view, a discussion at this stage including the discussion on the moving of the amendments. I think the position is clear now.

An Hon. Member: I think the hon. Member, Shri Hukam Singh, has withdrawn his amendment.

Mr. Speaker: No.

Shri Hukam Singh: I will not move my amendment. I will only support the amendment of my hon. friend Lala Achint Ram. But I hope that, whether I withdraw my amendment or not, I have a right to speak.

Mr. Speaker: I am concerned with the procedural aspect. This is not the stage at which the hon. Member can be called upon to withdraw the amendment. The amendment is to a particular clause, and it is only when the clause is before the House that he can say whether he wishes to move the amendment or not. Of course, the House can take it for granted that he is not moving the amendment. That is another matter. But even if he withdraws his amendment, it is perfectly open to him to speak, but it will not be open to him later to reopen the discussion. I will give him an opportunity to move the amendment if he wants to, but that is for him, not for me.

Shri Hukam Singh: As has been properly explained by our Minister, this Bill seeks to extend the period of Displaced Persons (Claims) Act, 1950, as the claims are being verified. We have been told that about seven lakhs out of nine lakh claims have already been completed and nobody would question the propriety of extending the duration of this Act because we are all keen that this job should be finished and finished as early as possible. When the original Bill was put before Parliament in April 1950, it was the Government's amendment that the duration should be two years. Some of us did object that it should be one year because we feared that already four years had passed and nothing had been done. The plight of the displaced persons was getting from bad to worse. What little they had brought with them in the shape of ornaments, clothes or cash even, everything had been exhausted.

[SHRI M. A. AYYANGAR *in the Chair*]

The Prime Minister referred yesterday and said that when any Member of the Opposition criticises everything that is done by the Government, it is to be presumed that his criticism is not genuine or honest. I am aware that the Government has been making

[Shri Hukam Singh]

efforts to rehabilitate the displaced persons and sufficient, I should say, has been done in this regard. But I cannot refrain from observing that more remains to be done. We should not feel complacent that we have done our duty. I must at this moment out of personal regard as well as out of public duty pay my tribute to the Minister that he has been very keen. (*Hear, hear*) He has been taking interest in the rehabilitation of the displaced persons. But I must bring to his notice that as I have felt, liquidation of camps also has been considered as tantamount to rehabilitation. If he wants certain instances, I can quote him this one instance which is also the latest and which I brought to his notice two or three days ago. In Yol camp there were certain refugees. Though they may not have strict relevance to this Bill, but certainly that is a very recent affair and I want to draw his pointed attention to this. They have been transported to some place which is about 25 or 30 miles from Bhopal. These persons were the residents of Kashmir and of Muzaferabad where the climate is cold. But now, where have they been put? The place that they have now been put in is a terrible place where even drinking water is not available. I was told that one child had already died. I have by this time received about a dozen telegrams and the Minister also, I believe, must have received more than that. I approached the Minister about this and he assured me that he has asked the Chief Commissioner to look into the matter and arrange to deepen wells. So this much is admitted that the wells that are there already, do not give as much drinking water as is needed. You will be surprised that these people are all landowners who have been sent there so that they might cultivate lands and produce food. But it is regrettable that they do not find water for drinking purposes—what to say of raising any crops. I have been told that the Chief Commissioner has been asked to deepen those wells. May I ask whether the undertaking of deepening wells given by the Government would be any solace for those persons that happen to be there and do not find any water to drink for the present? That deepening of wells which has been directed by the hon. Minister now must take some time and the Chief Commissioner also must take his own time in implementing that undertaking of Government. After some time he will direct some other officer to do that. Thus things are delayed unnecessarily and the problem continues to remain unsolved. I would stress the fact that such problems require immediate relief and cannot brook any delay. But that is not being done here. So, this is only an instance of how things are done.

At that time also when the original Bill was brought, an objection was taken because the amendment came from the Government Benches that the officials were of the opinion that they required two years at least to complete this verification of claims. Some of us moved an amendment to that proposal and stressed that it should be one year. An assurance was given that the task would be completed as soon as it was possible but that period of time must be given. Otherwise the Government should have to come up again to this House for an extension of time. On that assurance we all agreed and the period of two years was granted.

Now, this Bill is before us that that period of two years be extended by another year. I do not grudge it. We will agree that some extension is to be given but my contention is that as little time should be taken as possible, because even though the Minister gives this assurance that he will see that the job is finished as early as possible, this matter of extension of time will ultimately have a psychological effect upon the displaced persons who have been waiting for those long five years for some relief to come to them.

We are told that seven lakhs of claims have been verified. We were also told on the 19th of this month that the work was started in December 1950. So it has taken us about 17 months to complete seven lakhs of claims out of nine lakhs. But even on mathematical analysis—which he says it is not proper to take into consideration here—it should not take more than four or five months.

Shri A. P. Jain: That is my hope.

Shri Hukam Singh: My request to him is that if the hon. Minister wants that the period should be extended now by one year, he should not forget to consider the effect that this would have on the displaced persons.

This problem, we are told, is unparalleled. Certainly, all problems connected with partition are unparalleled, because partition itself was unparalleled. When we accepted partition, we had to accept all problems arising out of that partition, and tackle them at the highest level.

Now, so far as these claims are concerned, I have to submit one or two things as regards actual verification. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons we have been told that the displaced persons were slow in filing their claims in the beginning. I am sorry I am unable to agree with the hon. Minister there, because on the 20th of April 1950 when the original Bill was placed before this House, the displaced persons had already filed their claims in large numbers. At least most of those claims had been received and in the very statement of the hon. Minister it has been put down that more than five lakhs—5,34,700—claims had already been received. So it is clear that a substantial portion of the claims had already been received. There may be some other reasons which did not permit the organisation to work till December 1950, but this was not the reason that the displaced persons did not come forward with their claims. There is significance in that as well. It was right to a certain extent that the displaced persons were chary of coming forward, were hesitant, were reluctant because they had not that confidence in the Government that it would fulfil its pledges, because the Government had been changing its attitude towards this question of refugee property. I might develop the point a little further. When we came here as refugees in 1947 we had big hopes in our minds; we thought we had been sacrificed for the sake of the country and perhaps it would be taken as a national loss, that all of us would be compensated out of national funds, that it would be a national problem for the whole country. But ultimately we found that as the time passed we lost the sympathies that we had in the beginning. May be we might be to blame to a certain extent, I do not say that no portion of the blame lies on us, but I can say that the sympathies that we had when we came here had been dwindling away as time passed. At that time we were received with courtesy, with warmth, now we are intruders, now we are competitors, now we are not liked as much as we should have been. And as the rehabilitation policy of the Government has not been planned—it has been changing from time to time—the displaced persons have lost their faith and confidence in the Government that they could get what they had been promised. In the beginning every effort was made so that we should get some initial payment and the balance later from Pakistan for the excess of value of the property that our refugees had left behind in Pakistan. Five conferences were held but upto June 1949 our Government found that Pakistan was not prepared to pay a single pie. Our Government pressed that the settlement should be on a Government-to-Government level and Pakistan refused it outright; they said they would not accept it. Therefore when the situation had become clear that nothing could be got from Pakistan then a special conference was called here in July 1949 when Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar assured the representatives of the refugees that compensation would be paid and detailed the sources out of which it could be paid. He said clearly that one would be the evacuee property left by Muslims here in India, the second, he said, would be what we could get from Pakistan, and the third would be the portion that the Government could itself contribute towards this fund. But in December, 1950 we were disillusioned because a categorical statement was made that no question of contribution by this Government arose, there was no moral or legal obligation on the part of this Government. That was a point of view which was open to doubt, but then one of the three sources was eliminated. We were left with two other sources: one, what we could get from Pakistan, the other was the Muslim evacuee property left behind in India. We were waiting in the hope that even if these two sources were speedily worked out it would give us something. But subsequently in November, 1950, so far as I can recollect, there was a Press Conference when the Prime Minister told the Pressmen that we had been rather pursuing a wrong line, that we have been giving more attention to the propertied people, that is to those who held property in Pakistan. He said that the real question was one of rehabilitation. Even this word of compensation was offensive to him; he did not like it except in so far as it related to the property left by Muslims here. The position was crystal clear. The refugees could know on that day that they had to look towards this evacuee property and to no other source. Even though statements have been made subsequently that whatever would be received from Pakistan would be distributed, the refugees are very sure that nothing could be got out of Pakistan. We have made it clear that war does not solve problems—it creates them—and we agree that war cannot be undertaken for these purposes. Therefore the question of use of force goes out. Then remain treaty and agreement by negotiation and Pakistan is not prepared to pay anything. Therefore, any question of Pakistan paying us any amount for compensation does not arise at all. Therefore, the displaced person is left to look only towards this evacuee pro-

[Shri Hukam Singh]

perty. We are keen therefore that this claims verification should be settled as soon as possible because the property that is there with the Government which should have been considered as a trust by the Government for these displaced persons, is being reduced every day, it is dwindling in value, it is being destroyed—not deliberately but because nobody is looking after it, it is not being repaired, and so it is losing in value. The greater the delay the less would be the property that would be left in the pool. Also, though I do not want to say that there is deliberate volition on the part of Government, the refugees have the feeling that this pool also has been reduced during the last two or three years. Certain exemption certificates have been given, certain other properties have been restored. I am not one of those who would say that we should take away the property of those Muslim brothers who want to live here, but the property of those who have left for Pakistan, those who do not consider India as their home, should be taken into the evacuee property pool. I have some instances where even Pakistan diplomats serving in India or outside are enjoying their property here; they are citizens of Pakistan as well as of India and are enjoying their property here quite all right. The displaced persons are afraid that the more the time taken for the verification of claims the more will it be to the detriment of the displaced persons. Lest the whole thing might be consumed by the Custodian-General's Department and its officers, the displaced persons request Government that this question should be decided as soon as possible so that they may have something at least of what they have lost. They further press that Government should consider this pool property as a trust for the displaced persons and should be managed as such and the question of verification of claims should be expedited.

گیانی - جی - ایس - مساف : سبھاپتی جی- اس امنڈنگ بل کے بارے میں جو منسٹر صاحب نے پیش کیا ہے میں کچھ زیادہ نہیں کہنا چاہتا - میں اس بات کی تعریف کرتا ہوں کہ مانلیے منسٹر ریہیبلیٹیشن نے اس پرابلم (Problem) کو بڑی اچھی طرح سے ہینڈل (handle) کیا ہے اور بڑی قابلیت کے ساتھ- وہ جب سے منسٹر بنے ہیں ہر ایک بات میں کوشش کی ہے کہ یہ معاملہ بہت جلدی سلجھ جائے اور بہت سی باتیں ایسی ہو جائیں جن سے سرکار کی نیک نامی ہو اور شرنارتھیوں کو فائدہ پہنچ سکے -

میں اُن کی اپیل کی قدر کرتا ہوں جو اس وقت انہوں نے کی ہے - مگر ہم لوگوں کو یا رفیوجیوں کو جو انگسائٹی (anxiety) ہے وہ اس کو سمجھ لیں کہ اس کی وجہ کیا ہے - مجھے خوشی ہے کہ اس فکر کے بارے میں جیسے کہ ابھی سردار حکم سنگھ جی نے کہا کہ منسٹر صاحب اچھی طرح سے سمجھتے ہیں بل کے آبجیکٹس اور ریزنز (Objects and Reasons) میں ظاہر کیا گیا ہے کہ شروع شروع میں شرنارتھیوں نے اپنے کلیمس دینے میں ڈھلائی کی ہے - اس کی کچھ حد تک وجہ ہے کہ جس وقت اعلان کیا گیا کہ لوگ اپنے اپنے کلیم دیں تو اس وقت حالت یہ تھی کہ رفیوجیوں کو اس بات کا اعتبار نہیں رہا تھا کہ سرکار ہمیں کچھ دے گی اس لئے ہمیں اعلان کرنا پڑا تھا اور ایک ایک کے پاس جانا پڑا تھا کیوں کہ بعض لوگ یہ کہتے تھے کہ ہم کلیم کس لئے دیں - ہمیں کلیم کے کاغذ دینے پر جو خرچہ آتا ہے اتنا واپس ملنے کی بھی امید نہیں ہے - اس لئے وہ دیر کرتے رہے -

ٹھیک ہوگا اور میں ان کی تکلیف کو سمجھتا ہوں - ممکن ہے کہ ان کے جواب دینے سے کوئی دقت پیدا ہو جائے اور جس کی وجہ سے ہمارا

10 A. M.

نقصان ہو جائے مگر اس قسم کے جواب سے ان لوگوں کے دل میں جن کا اس سے سمبندھ ہے اور بھی شک بڑھ جاتا ہے - کل میں نے کلیموں کے متعلق جو سوال عرض کیا تھا کہ کتنوں کے کلیم ہو چکے ہیں تو انہوں نے یہ جواب دیا کہ سرکار ابھی اس پوزیشن میں نہیں ہے کہ وہ اس کا جواب دے سکے -

شومی اے - پی - جین : کل یہ سوال نہیں تھا کہ کتنے کلیم ہو چکے ہیں -

پنڈت ٹھاکر داس بھارگو : یہ میرا سوال تھا -

گیانی جی - ایس - مسافر : سوال تو میرا بھی یہی تھا ، مگر میں اس بحث میں نہیں پڑتا - میں یہ کہنا چاہتا تھا کہ لوگوں کے شک بڑھ رہے ہیں اس لئے میں آپ سے یہ پرارتھنا کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ سرکار بیشک یہ امنڈنگ بل پاس کرے اور اس پارلیمنٹ میں پاس ہو جائے - مگر ایک طرف سرکار اپنی آسانی کے لئے جہاں لمبا کام کرتی ہے وہاں دوسری طرف جس کام کو لمبا کرنے سے شرنارتھیوں کا فائدہ پہنچتا ہے وہاں پر سرکار تیزی کرتی ہے - میرا مطلب یہ ہے کہ اگر کام میں دیر کرنا ہے تو ہر

آنریبل منسٹر صاحب بیشک یہ خیال کریں گے کہ میں یہ کہہ کر ان کی تائید کر رہا ہوں مگر سچ یہی ہے کہ لوگ کلیم دینے میں اس لئے دیری کرتے تھے - اور میں اس نظریہ سے ان کے گوش گذار کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ یہ امپریشن (impression) جو شرنارتھیوں میں ہو چکا تھا یہی ساری خرابیوں کی جڑ تھی - اب بھی اس قسم کی دیو کر کے ہم یہ امپریشن بنا رہے ہیں -

مجھے پریذیڈنٹ (President) صاحب کے ایڈریس (Address) پر کچھ کہنے کا موقع نہیں ملا - اس ایڈریس میں رفیوجیوں کا ذکر تک نہ ہونا اس چیز کا اور بھی شک بڑھاتا ہے اور شائد سرکار یہ سمجھتی ہے کہ یہ شرنارتھیوں کا مسئلہ اب قریب قریب ختم ہو چکا ہے - میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ یہ مسئلہ اس بات سے اور بھی ایکیوٹ (acute) ہو گیا ہے جو چیز پوری طرح سے ختم نہ ہوئی ہو اور جس کو جلدی ختم کرنا چاہیئے اس کے لئے یہ امپریشن ہو جانا کہ یہ معاملہ ختم ہو چکا ہے اس طرح سے یہ پرابلم اور بھی ایکیوٹ ہو جاتا ہے - اس لئے میں نے آنریبل منسٹر صاحب سے کل یا ایک روز پہلے ایک دو سوال پوچھے تھے انہوں نے ایک سوال کا یہ جواب دیا کہ پبلک انٹرسٹ (public interest) کی وجہ سے اس سوال کا جواب اس وقت نہیں دیا جا سکتا - ان کا نظریہ

[گیانی جی - ایس - مسافر]

اور جن کو سرکار نے چیپور ہاؤس خالی کرنے کو کہا ہے اس کے بدلے میں ان میں سے بعض کو کوئی الٹرنیٹیو اکومیڈیشن (alternative accommodation) نہیں دی گئی ہے - کہا یہ گیا ہے کہ وہ دسمبر سنہ ۱۹۴۸ء سے بعد آئے ہیں - مگر چیپور ہاؤس اس تاریخ تک سرکار کے قبضہ میں ہی نہیں تھا - تو اس طرح سے جو ان کو وہاں سے ہٹنے کا نوٹس دیا گیا ہے اور وہ لوگ اس نوٹس سے بہت پریشان ہیں -

ایک بات میں اپنے فائننس منسٹر صاحب سے بھی عرض کروں گا اور میں نے ایک سوال بھی ان سے پوچھا تھا کہ کیا وہ اس بات پر غور کر سکتے ہیں کہ ریہیبلیٹیشن فائننس ایڈمنسٹریشن کے جو قرضے ہیں وہ پانچ ہزار سے زیادہ ہیں اور مڈل کلاس (middle class) کے لوگوں کو ملے ہیں ان پر بھی یہ رعایت عاید کر دی جائے جو اسٹیٹ گورنمنٹس کے چھوٹے قرضوں پر ریہیبلیٹیشن ڈپارٹمنٹ نے کی ہے یعنی سرکار کی طرف سے جو اعلان شری اجیت پرشاد جین نے کیا ہے کہ اسٹیٹ گورنمنٹوں نے جو چھوٹے چھوٹے لون (loan) لوگوں کو دئے ہیں ان کی واپسی کی قسطیں بند کر دی جائیں اس وقت تک جب تک کہ ان کے کلیمز نہیں ملتے اور ان کے کلیمز ان کے قرضے ایک کام میں دیر کرے - جس دیر سے شرنارتھیوں کو فائدہ پہنچتا ہے اور جس کام سے سرکار کو سہولت ملتی ہے دونوں میں ہی دیر ہو -

کچھ روز ہوئے ہیں کہ قریب ۷۰ مکان جن غریب لوگوں نے اپنے گہنے وغیرہ بیچ کر یا کسی ٹھنگ سے قرضہ لیکر یا کسی رشتہ دار یا دوست سے روپیہ لے کر چھوٹے چھوٹے مکان اپنے رہنے کے لئے بنائے تھے وہ اس وجہ سے گرا دئے گئے کہ وہ ان جگہوں پر بنائے گئے تھے جہاں پر کہ بنانے کی اجازت نہیں تھی یعنی ان اتھارایزڈ اکوپیشن (unauthorised occupation) کرکے انہوں نے مکان بنا لئے تھے - یہ جھگڑا یہاں پر بہت دیر تک چلتا رہا - میں نہیں چاہتا کہ سرکار کا کوئی قانون توڑا جائے مگر مکان گرانے کے کام میں اگر دیر ہو جاتی تو کیا ہرج تھا - یہ مکان اُسوقت گرائے جاتے جب شرنارتھیوں کو اپنے کلیمز میں سے کچھ مل جاتا تاکہ وہ دوسری جگہہ مکان بنا کر رہ سکتے اور ان کو سہولیت ہو جاتی تو میرا مطلب یہ ہے کہ جن باتوں سے شرنارتھیوں کو فائدہ پہنچ سکتا ہے اس میں بھی دیر کی جائے - چیپور ہاؤس میں جو کہ ہماری سرکار کے قبضہ میں ابھی آیا ہے اس میں ہمارے بہت سے رفیوجی بھائی رہتے ہیں - ایک دم ان کو نوٹس ملا ہے کہ وہ چیپور ہاؤس خالی کر دیں -

لئے ان کو قرضے واپس کرنے میں تکلیف
ہوتی ہے - میں آج پھر یہ عرض کرونگا
کہ اس بات پر ضرور غور کیا جائے کہ اگر
کلیمز کا معاملہ اس طرح لمبا ہوتا
جاتا ہے تو پھر قرضہ کی اقساط کے
معاملے کو بھی جو شرنارتھیوں کے حق
میں جاتا ہے اسے بھی بڑھا دینا
چاہیئے اور بجائے ان سے جلدی جلدی
انسٹالمنٹس میں آج ہی نقد وصول
کرنے کے انہیں بھی اس کی ادائیگی
میں کچھ سہولیت دی جائے تاکہ
انہیں بھی سہارا ہو اور پھر انہیں
کچھ تسلی ہو جائیگی کہ سرکار سچمچ
ہی کلیمز میں بڑی جلدی کچھ نہ
کچھ پورشن اُنکے کلیمز کا دیگی تبھی
تو یہ سمجھا جائے گا کہ سرکار ہمارے
ساتھ رعایت کر رہی ہے اور ہمارے قرض
کے جو انسٹالمنٹس ہیں ان کو بلند کر
رہی ہے - ان کے من میں اس سے بڑی
تسلی ہوگی اور اس سے ان کو بڑی
سہولیت ہوگی - سرکار کی نیک نامی
ہوگی - سرکار کے کاموں میں آسانی ہو
گی یہ ٹھیک بات ہے - اس سلسلے
میں زیادہ وقت اس ہاوس کا نہیں
لینا چاہتا صرف اتنا ہی گوش گزار کرنا
چاہتا ہوں سرکار کی سیوا میں کہ اس
وقت لوگوں میں اور شرنارتھیوں میں
کلیمز کا فیصلہ لمبا ہو جانے کی وجہ
سے بہت بے اعتباری ہو گئی ہے -
ضرورت یہ ہے کہ اس بے اعتباری کو دور
کیا جائے - منسٹر صاحب اس بل کو
بے شک پاس کرائیں اور مجھ سے زیادہ
میں ایڈجسٹ (adjust) کر دیئے
جائیں اس طرح سے ان کو بڑی
سہولیت ہو گی - اس لئے میں وزیر
خزانہ سے عرض کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ جن
شرنارتھیوں نے ریہیبلیٹیشن فائننس
ایڈمنسٹریشن کی طرف سے لون لئے
ہیں ان کی بھی کافی تعداد ہے ان
کو بھی اس طرح کی سہولیت دیدی
جائے - وزیر خزانہ صاحب کا کہنا ہے
کہ اس روپئے سے ان لوگوں نے کمائی
کی ہے اور وہ لوگ کماتے ہیں اس
وجہ سے ان کو اپنی قسط ادا کرنی
چاہیئے - میں پورے طور سے ان کی
اس بات سے متفق ہوں - بلکہ اگر
کوئی انسٹالمنٹ وقت پر نہ دیں
تو میں زور دیتا ہوں کہ وہ وقت
پر دیں - مگر یہ بالکل صاف بات ہے کہ
ری ہیبلیٹیشن فائننس ایڈمنسٹریشن
کے جو چھ چھ ہزار - سات سات ہزار-
آٹھ آٹھ یا دس دس ہزار کے لونس
ہیں ان کو انسٹالمنٹس میں ادا کرنے
میں بڑی تکلیف ہو رہی ہے - ایک
تو اس قرضہ کی اقساط کو واپس کرنا
اور پھر اس نفع میں سے اپنے بال بچوں
کا بھی گزارہ کرنا یہ دونوں باتیں ان کے
لئے بڑی مشکل ہو گئی ہیں اس میں
ان بیچاروں کا کوئی قصور نہیں ہے
قدرت بھی ان کا ساتھ نہیں دیتی اور
ان کے خلاف ہو جاتی ہے - روزگار میں
کبھی مندہ آتا ہے اور کبھی تیزی لیکن
اب ہر طرف مندہ ہی مندہ ہے اس

[گیانی جی- ایس- مسافر]

آنریبل منسٹر سمجھ سکتے ھیں کہ یہ
کام کس طرح ھو سکتا ھے - سرکار کی
تکلیفیں جیسے دور ھو سکتی ھیں وہ
کریں اور بے شک ایسے بل پاس کریں
مگو میری گزارش کو بھی مانیں کہ
جس طرح وہ کلیمز کے کام کو اپنی
سہولیت کے لئے لمبا کرنا چاھتے ھیں
اسی طرح دوسری طرف وہ باتیں جو
شرنارتھیوں کے حق میں جاتی ھیں اُن
میں بھی تھوڑا صبر اور ھمدردی سے کام لیں
تاکہ شرنارتھیوں کو سہولیت ھو جائے -

(English translation of the above speech)

Giani G. S. Musafir (Amritsar): Sir, I do not have much to say with regard to the amending Bill introduced by the hon. Minister. All praise is due to the hon. Minister for the able handling of this problem. From the very day when he assumed office it has been his earnest endeavour to settle this problem as soon as possible and create such circumstances as may bring a good name to the Government and benefit the displaced persons.

I appreciate the appeal he has made. It would be very nice if he realises the anxiety of the displaced persons and its reasons. I am very glad that he appreciates it, as Sardar Hukam Singh has just now said. The Statement of Objects and Reasons of this Bill indicates that the displaced persons have shown slackness in the beginning in filing their claims. When the announcement inviting claims was made the displaced persons were not sure that any payment in respect of claims would be made. We had to make announcements and to approach the displaced persons individually to persuade them to file claims. Some of them asked as to why they should file claims when they were not sure of recovering even that amount which was to be spent on filing claims. That is why they delayed the filing of claims. Of course the hon. Minister would think that I am supporting his opinion but the fact is that the displaced persons did make delay, because they were not sure whether even the amount spent on filing claims could be recovered. I want to tell him that the root of the entire trouble was this impression created in the minds of the displaced persons. Even now we are creating this impression by this sort of delay.

I did not get an opportunity to speak on the Address of the President. The fact that the Address did not contain any reference to the displaced persons, strengthens this suspicion, and probably the Government also think, that the problem of displaced persons has almost been solved. I am of the opinion that the impression that the problem has almost been solved accentuates this problem. That is why I had given notice of a couple of questions to the hon. Minister. In reply to one of them he stated that it was not in public interest to give the desired information. Maybe he is right. I can understand his predicament. A difficulty may possibly arise if he gives the desired information which may harm the interests of the displaced persons in some way. But this type of answer enhances the suspicion in the minds of those concerned. Yesterday I wanted to know the number of claims filed and was told that the Government were not in a position to answer that question.

Shri A. P. Jain: The question asked yesterday was not about the number of claims filed.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: (Gurgaon): That was my question.

Giani G. S. Musafir: I had also asked the same question but I won't argue the point.

I want to say that people are getting more and more suspicious. The Government may get the amending Bill passed by the House. But the trouble is that on the one hand they delay a task for their convenience and on the other they show quickness if delay can be helpful to the displaced persons. My point is that if the Government wants delay, let there be delay in all cases including those where delay can be helpful to the displaced persons and also those where delay can be of any use to the Government in any way.

A few days back, about 70 houses, built by displaced persons for their own use by selling their ornaments or by raising loans from relatives or friends, were demolished simply because the sites where they were built were not meant for construction of houses, *i.e.* they were built by unauthorised occupation. The echo of the incident vibrated for quite a long time here. I do not want that any law should be broken, but

what would have been lost, if the demolition of these houses had been delayed? These houses should have been demolished at a time when some payment in respect of their claims would have been received by the displaced persons, so that they would have been in a position to build houses on alternative sites. The point I want to make is that delay may be made in those cases where it can be beneficial to the displaced persons. Many displaced persons are residing in Jaipur House, recently acquired by our Government. They have suddenly received quit notices. Some of them have not even been offered alternative accommodation. on the plea that they have migrated to India after December, 1948. But Jaipur House had not been acquired by the Government till then. The quit notice has become a source of worry for those putting up there.

I have a request to make to the hon. Minister of Finance also. I had asked a question in this connection, which was: whether he could consider giving the same facility to the people who have been given loans by the Rehabilitation Finance Administration, or are granted loans by the Rehabilitation Ministry. The Rehabilitation Finance Administration has granted loans to more than five thousand persons belonging to the middle class. They should also be given the same facility as announced by Shri Ajit Prasad Jain for those people who have been given small loans by the State Governments. He had announced that the repayment in instalments of these loans may be stopped till such time as the payment in respect of their claims is made. The claims of these persons may be adjusted against their loans. This will make things easier for them; that is why I have appealed to the hon. Minister of Finance to grant this facility to the large number of people who have been granted loans by the Rehabilitation Finance Administration. The hon. Minister for Finance says that these people have earned money by virtue of these loans and they should repay it in instalments. I agree with him fully, rather I would insist that instalments should be paid in time. But it is clear that to repay in instalments of loans amounting to Rs. 6,000, Rs. 7,000 or Rs. 10,000 is becoming difficult. because they have to make both ends meet, besides paying instalments out of the profit that they are making. They are not to blame for this state of affairs; even the circumstances don't favour them; there is sometimes a slump and sometimes a boom in business but now there is slump all round and they are finding it difficult to repay the loans. I would again request you to see to it that if there is delay in payment in respect of claims, there should also be delay in repayment of instalments which would be so managed as to be convenient for the displaced persons. Instead of getting back instalments of loans, they should be given more time so that they get some relief. Even if they get the impression that the Government would really pay some portion of the claims, they would have the satisfaction that the Government are giving them some concession and are stopping the repayment of instalments of loans by them. This would ease their minds and they would feel relieved. This Government would earn their gratitude, and would facilitate its own functioning. I do not want to take any more time, I wish only to submit that the delay in the settlement of claims has resulted in loss of confidence in the minds of displaced persons. What we need at this time is to revive this confidence. The hon. Minister may get this Bill passed. He can realize better than I can as to how the difficulties of the Government can be removed. But at the same time he should also accede to my request *i.e.*, he should show some patience and sympathy by delaying matters which can facilitate the displaced persons, like the delaying of claims which the Government are doing for their own convenience.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee (Hooghly): After the very clear and comprehensive exposition given by the hon. Minister, there is no way out but to extend the Displaced Persons (Claims) Act, 1950. As a matter of fact, it has already expired on the 18th May 1952. The only question is how long it should be extended. The hon. Minister has put forward three grounds—fairly cogent grounds—for the extension. The first ground puts the blame on the poor unfortunate refugees. They have to suffer various handicaps. They thought that this was not practical and perhaps nothing will come out of it. Now the position is different. The hon. Minister as well as other Members of this House have to disabuse the refugees and the displaced persons of that fear. We have got to convince them that it is not meant for window-dressing. We have to make a psychological approach. Coming from Bengal, I have got to say that unless this matter is here satisfactorily settled, so far as East Pakistan refugees are concerned, the psychological effect will be tremendously bad. In view of the imposition of the passport system something like this legislation would be unavoidable in order to meet the case of millions of people who are affected in my part

[Shri N. C. Chatterjee]

of the country. There is need for such legislation to save the situation in regard to East Bengal refugees.

Now, how long should the extension be? I want the hon. Minister to remember two facts. One factor has already been explained by Shri Hukam Singh. He has rightly said that we should take into account the psychological effect. One other factor we want the hon. Minister to realise is this: Will not a longer time lead to procrastination and delay? Will it not be better to finish the business quickly? The hon. Minister said that he had 300 Claims Officers and yet he was not satisfied with the work they have done. The longer you put it off, the longer time limit you give, there will be the incentive to procrastination. I think it would be better to put a time-limit so as to make it incumbent on the officers to wind up their affairs and complete their business at the earliest possible moment. The longer time you put down, the longer they will go on in the usual administrative manner. I am pleading for this shorter time, not in a spirit of obstruction, but in order to impress upon the people concerned that you cannot stick to your office more than six months. What is meant by six months' extension? Six months will take us to 18th November 1952. The hon. Minister hopes to finish in four months. 18th November 1952 will, I think, be a reasonable time. That will convince the refugees that something is going to be done at least by the end of this year. They will know where they stand. In spite of the difficulties. we have got to finish this business, and the sooner we finish the business the better. Earliest disposal is imperative in the interests of the oppressed people, and in the name of oppressed humanity I appeal that you should put a definite time-limit, not exceeding the end of this year. The refugees will then know where they stand. The Claims Officers also should know that they must finish their business by that date, and that will be some relief to the refugees. They will know that there will be some prospect of getting something.

I also support what has been said by the learned speakers this morning. We should see that the pool or fund which may be available for compensating displaced persons should not be whittled down in any way at the expense of our people and to the advantage of those who have repudiated their allegiance to our country and to our Constitution. They have gone out of this country; they look upon India more or less as an enemy State and not as their home. So, we should do everything in our power to see that the pool or fund is not whittled down in any way.

पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव : श्रीमान्, इस छोटे से बिल पर जो इतनी जरूरी है, मेरा इरादा नहीं था कि मैं हाउस का वक़्त जाया करूं। इस में कोई शक़ नहीं है कि जहां तक इस बिल का ताल्लुक़ है कोई हाउस इस बिल की मुख़ालफ़त नहीं कर सकता और जो लोग मिनिस्टर साहब के काम से वाकिफ़ हैं वह जानते होंगे कि हमारे मिनिस्टर साहब ने कितनी जांफ़िशानी, मेहनत और ऐहतियात से इस काम को किया है। उस के लिये सिवाय इस के कि उन को ट्रिब्यूट (tribute) अदा किया जाय और उन पर यक़ीन रखा जाय कि वह हमारी बेहतरी के वास्ते जो कुछ कर सकते हैं, वह जरूर करेंगे, और कुछ नहीं किया जा सकता।

जहां तक इस बिल के असूलों का ताल्लुक़ है, मैं उन को सपोर्ट (support) करता हूं और साथ ही में उन खिदमात की भी दाद देता हूं जो हमारे मिनिस्टिर साहब ने रिफ़्यूजीज के बारे में अंजाम दी हैं। लेकिन मुसीबत तो यह है कि रिफ़्यूजीज का सवाल इतना लम्बा चौड़ा है और गवर्नमेंट आफ़ इंडिया की अपनी ताक़त उस के सामने इतनी छोटी है कि वह दरअस्ल इतने बड़े सवाल को अच्छी तरह से हल नहीं कर सकती। अफ़सोस तो तब होता है जब हम यह देखते हैं कि सरकार उन मामलों को भी, जिन की कि वह हल कर सकती है, बराबर हल करने की कोशिश नहीं करती और जिन चीजों के करने के लिये सरकार हम से रोज वायदे करती है, उन वायदों के खिलाफ़ खुद इस सरकार के मामूली अफ़सर क़द्र नहीं करते।

अभी सरदार हुकुम सिंह की तक़रीर सुन कर मुझे दिल्ली प्रेमिसेज एविक्शन बिल (Delhi Premises Eviction Bill) याद आता है जिसे इस हाउस ने पास किया था। हम ने असेंदराज तक, एक साल तक, उस बिल की सेलेक्ट कमेटी में काम किया और मिनिस्टर साहब से इस हाउस के सामने ऐश्योरेन्स (assurance)हासिल किया। वह ऐश्योरेन्स क्या था ? वह यह था कि दिल्ली के अन्दर जो शरणार्थी बैठे हैं और जिन्होंने अगस्त सन. १९५० से पहले मकान बनाये हैं उन के मकानों को बिना किसी लिहाज के, बिना इस कमेटी के पालिसी डिसकस किये हुए नहीं गिराया जायगा। हमारे मिनिस्टर साहब ने हाउस को ऐश्योरेन्स दिया और पार्लियामेन्ट के तीन मेम्बरों को कमेटी में शामिल किया। वह चन्द मिनिस्टरों की भी कमेटी थी। उस कमेटी की पहली मीटिंग हुई, उस के अन्दर हमारे सामने चन्द एक मामले पेश किये गये। उस के ऊपर अभी पूरा गौर व खौज नहीं हुआ था, अभी किसी नतीजे पर कमेटी नहीं पहुंची थी कि कमेटी की बैठक उस वक़्त खत्म हो गई। लेकिन अखबारों के अन्दर क्या देखा गया कि जो फ़ैसले कमेटी के नहीं हुए थे उन को ग़लत तौर पर किसी शख्स ने दे दिया कि कमेटी ने यह फ़ैसले किये हैं कि फ़लां इलाक़े से लोगों को उठा दिया जायगा। हम ने मिनिस्टर साहब की खिदमत में शिकायत की कि हम ने यह फ़ैसले नहीं किये कि यह लोग उठाये जायेंगे। और मिनिस्टर साहब ने क़बूल किया कि यह फ़ैसले नहीं हुए और यह किसी शख्स की ग़लती थी कि वह अखबार में दे दिये गये। मुझे नहीं मालूम कि किस की ग़लती थी ताहम उस कमेटी की दूसरी बैठक नहीं हुई। हम ने इस के लिये मिनिस्टर साहब को लिख कर दिया कि हम ने ऐसा कोई फ़ैसला नहीं किया है, लेकिन मेरे अफ़सोस और दुःख की कोई हद नहीं रही जब कि चन्द शरणार्थियों ने मुझ से आ कर कहा कि उन के ७० मकानों को जिन की कीमत पांच पांच हज़ार से कम नहीं थी, पुलिस के ज़रिये ज़मीन से लगा दिया गया और उन के अकुपैन्ट्स (occupants) को तेहाड़ में ले जाया गया, और रात के ग्यारह बजे ले जाया गया। मुझे पता लगा कि एक औरत के तीन दिन पहले बच्चा हुआ था, उन हटाये जाने वालों में वह औरत भी शामिल थी। वहां के आदमी चन्द रोज़ पहले मेरे पास आये थे और कहा कि हमारे पास यह नोटिस आया है। मैं ने कहा कि यह नहीं हो सकता। जब तक कमेटी का फ़ैसला नहीं हो जाता तब तक यह मकान नहीं गिराये जायेंगे। उन लोगों ने कहा हम क्या करें, हम मुसीबत में हैं, हम तो उजड़े हुए आदमी हैं जो एक जगह से उजड़ कर दूसरी जगह बसे हैं, हम क्या करें। इन आदमियों ने कहा कि हमारी उमेदें खत्म हो चुकी हैं और अगर हमें मकानों से निकाला गया तो हम मुक़ाबला करेंगे — यह लोग पेशावरी थे। मैं ने उन से कहा कि आप खुदा के लिये ऐसा खयाल न करें। लेकिन जब मुझे बताया गया कि उन सत्तर मकानों को गिरा दिया गया तो मुझे बड़ा अफ़सोस हुआ। उस औरत के खाविंद ने अपने हाथ में लाठी ली और कहने लगा कि पहले मुझे मार दो फिर मेरी औरत को लेजाना क्योंकि औरत तो ऐसी हालत में ले जाने पर मर ही जायेगी। और उस औरत के ले जाने पर उस के खाविन्द ने कुछ आदमियों को ज़ख्मी भी किया। तब यहां के मैजिस्ट्रेट साहब वहां गये और समझा बुझा कर तेहाड़ भेज दिया। मुझे एतराज़ नहीं अगर कानून से उन लोगों के मकान गिराये जा रहे हैं,

[पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव]

और अगर कानून से जो लोग एक जगह बस गये हैं उन को उजाड़ना मक़सूद है। लेकिन मुझे सख्त एतराज है कि हाउस के अन्दर ऐश्योरेन्स दे कर कि जब कमेटी फ़ैसला करेगी उस के बाद कोई मकान गिराये जायेंगे, फिर भी बिला फ़ैसला कमेटी के सत्तर मकान गिराये जायें। और लोग कहते हैं कि सत्तर नहीं सब के सब मकान गिराये जायेंगे। मैं किसी ऐसे क़ानून को नहीं जानता जिसकी रू से कई साल के पुराने मकान इस तरह से गिरा दिये जायें बिना कमेटी की इजाजत लिये हुए। मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूं और ज्ञानी गुरुमुख सिंह साहब के साथ शामिल हूं कि अगर कहीं देर की जरूरत है तो ऐसे कामों में देर की जरूरत है। आखिर क्या बिगड़ जाता अगर कुछ दिनों के बाद इन मकानों को गिराया जाता जिन का गिराना जरूरी था। मुझे शिकायत है आनरेबल मिनिस्टर साहब से, और मैं वह शिकायत पहले भी रिपीट (repeat) कर चुका हूं और फिर रिपीट करता हूं। अगर मिनिस्टर साहब इस दिल्ली के मामले को अपने हाथ में लेते क्योंकि जैसा मैंने अर्ज किया कि रिहैबिलिटेशन डिपार्टमेन्ट का फ़र्ज है कि वह तमाम रिफ़्यूजीज की हिफ़ाजत करे, तो यह बात न होती कि उन सत्तर मकानों को गिरा दिया जाता। मुझे अफ़सोस है कि चूंकि मिनिस्टर साहब के मुहकमे ने कुछ फ़िक्र नहीं की इस लिये यह मुसीबत पैदा हुई। लेकिन मैं मिनिस्टर साहब के सामने एक और बात कहना चाहता हूं कि आज कल आप एक एक दिन क्लेम में देर करते हैं तो उस से जो मुसीबत पैदा होती है उस को बयान नहीं कर सकता। आज हर एक रिफ़्यूजी को जरूरत है। जितनी जल्दी आप इस क्लेम के काम को करेंगे उतना ज्यादा से ज्यादा लोगों की मदद होगी। मैं इन रिफ़्यूजी भाइयों की हालत को क्या कहूं जिन के आंसू दुख की गर्मी से खुश्क हो चुके हैं, जिन को यकीन नहीं रहा कि आप कुछ करना चाहते हैं। आप का इतना बड़ा रिफ़्यूजी का सवाल है। आप रोज क्रेडिट (credit) लेते हैं कि आपने रिफ़्यूजियों को बसा दिया और दरअस्ल यह क्रेडिट की बात है। कोई दुनिया की सरकार ऐसे कारनामे नहीं दिखला सकती जो इस गवर्नमेन्ट ने दिखलाये, लेकिन ताहम उन की शिकायत सुनिये। पलवल के अन्दर जो रिफ़्यूजीज हैं पहले सेशन में मैंने उन का जिक्र किया था और कहा गया था कि तकरीबन आठ सौ आदमी अभी तक कैम्पों में मौजूद हैं। जवाब दिया गया कि एक हजार आदमियों के वास्ते मकान बनाये जा चुके हैं। लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि, अब तक वह मकान मुकम्मिल नहीं हुए हैं। सिर्फ़ मकानों का रोना क्यों रोया जाय। मैं आप से कहता हूं कि पलवल के रिफ़्यूजी भूखे मर रहे हैं, उन के पास काम नहीं है और उन की हालत यह है कि जो आप दिमाग में भी नहीं ला सकते। मैं अदब से अर्ज करूंगा क्लेम्स वग़ैरह की तो बहुत बड़ी चीज है। लेकिन जब तक उन की उनके लाइवलीहुड (livelihood) की तजवीज नहीं होगी तब तक काम चलने वाला नहीं है। वह लोग कहते हैं कि उन के पास करने को काम नहीं है। उन के हाथ हैं, वह मजबूत हैं, वह काम करने को तैयार हैं लेकिन उन के पास काम नहीं है।

इसी तरह से थोड़े से आदमी फ़रीदाबाद में हैं। आप ने फ़रीदाबाद के लोगों को ओखले में मदद दी और दिल्ली में मदद

दे रहे हैं, लेकिन मैं अदब से अर्ज करता हूं कि बावजूद इस मदद के, फ़रीदाबाद में भी तीन हज़ार ऐसे आदमी हैं जिन के पास काम नहीं है। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि आप क्लेम्स को जल्द से जल्द तै करना चाहते हैं तो कितने आदमियों के क्लेम्स को आप तय कर रहे हैं। सिर्फ़ थोड़ी सी जायदाद के आप ने क्लेम्स लिये हैं, करोड़ों रुपये की जायदाद जो छोड़ी गई माल से भरी हुई दुकानों व मकानों का मुआवजा न उन को पाकिस्तान कुछ देगा, न आप दे सकते हैं। तो आज क्लेम्स की यह हालत है, आप ने फ़ैसला किया है कि इस को छः महीने में किया जाय। लेकिन क्लेम्स का फ़ैसला करने से तो किसी की जेब में पैसा नहीं आ जायेगा, रोटी आयेगी नहीं, आप यह फ़रमाइये कि आप ने जायदाद की कीमत का वेरिफ़िकेशन कहां तक कर लिया है और उस के बाद जब फ़ैसला हो जायेगा तो उस के लिये आप कितना पैसा देंगे। यह मसला ग़ौर तलब है। सरदार हुकुम सिंह साहब ने एक रोज़ हाउस में इस के मुताल्लिक कहा था कि कम से कम आठ आने दे दिया जाय।

श्री हुकम सिंह: आपने तो मुखालिफ़त की थी।

पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव: मैं ने मुखालिफ़त की थी। मैं चाहता था कि सिर्फ़ आठ ही आने सरकार न दे, ज्यादा दे। मैं अब भी कहता हूं कि सरकार आठ आने से ज्यादा दे सके तो मैं खुश हूंगा। मैं ने यह नहीं कहा कि सरकार मुआवजा न दे, मैं ने सवाल पूछा था कि क्लेम्स की क्या कीमत है लेकिन जवाब नहीं दिया गया। अगर मिनिस्टर साहब जवाब देते तो पूछता कि उस जायदाद की क्या कीमत है जो इवैक्वीज (evacuees) की है, ताकि हम देखते कि आठ आने देंगे, चार आने देंगे या दो आने देंगे।

जहां तक मैं ने सुना है जो क्लेम्स आप देने वाले हैं अच्छा है कि आप इन क्लेम्स को देने में देर करते जायें। जिस दिन आप एनाउंस करेंगे कि इन क्लेम्स में आप कितना हिस्सा देंगे उस दिन हजारहा औरतें और बच्चे जार जार रोयेंगे क्योंकि वह जान जायेंगे कि सरकार क्या देने लगी है। इस बिल के देर से आने में एक अच्छी बात यह होगी कि उन को इस बात का अहसास देर से होगा। आप जितना पैसा देना चाहते हैं दे दीजिये, आठ आने दे दीजिये या चार आना दे दीजिये, लेकिन इस बिल में जितनी देर कर सकें कर दीजिये। क्योंकि जिस दिन आप यह एनाउंस करेंगे कि हम डेढ़ आना देना चाहते हैं उस दिन उन के दिल बैठ जायेंगे। मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि क्लेम्स के देर या सवेर का सवाल नहीं है, सवाल इस जवाब का है जो आप देंगे।

जब इवेक्युई प्रापर्टी (evacuee property) के पूल (pool) का जिक्र आता है तो उस के मुताल्लिक़ मुख्तलिफ़ लोग मुख्तलिफ़ तरीक़े से बात करते हैं और इस सवाल को मुख्तलिफ़ तरीक़े से देखते हैं। मैं किसी के साथ बेइन्साफ़ी नहीं करना चाहता। अगर आप के प्रीडेसेसर्स ने ऐसे बयान दिये हैं जिन की वजह से यह पूल कम होता जाता है तो उस के बारे में मैं अफ़सोस हो कर सकता हूं। लेकिन जो रिफ़्यूजीज की शिकायत है कि सरकार की हमारे साथ हमदर्दी कम होती जाती है क्या इस में सदाक़त नहीं है। अगर आप और देर करते जायेंगे तो जो हमदर्दी बाक़ी रह गई है वह भी और कम हो जायगी और खत्म हो जायेगी। मैं आप

[पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव]

से अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि आप इस सवाल को जितना जल्दी हल कर सकते हैं हल करें । क्लेम्स में आप देर कर दें लेकिन इस सवाल को हल करें कि कितना पैसा देना चाहते हैं, सरकार का कंट्रीब्यूशन (contribution) क्या होगा । इस सवाल के हल होने से उन के दिल को तसल्ली हो जायेगी । आप बिल में देर कर लें पर इस सवाल को तै कर दीजिये ।

मेरे पास रिफ़्यूजीज आते हैं और मुझ से पूछते रहे हैं कि क्या हम क्लेम्स दाखिल करें, क्या इन क्लेम्स का हम को कुछ मिलेगा। मैं हरगिज उन को ऐसा जवाब नहीं दे सकता जिस से कि उनको तसल्ली हो । मैं समझता हूं कि आनरेबुल मिनिस्टर साहब को मेरे मुकाबले उन से ज्यादा हमदर्दी होगी, पर मुझे पता नहीं कि आया वह भी इस सवाल का तसल्लीबख्श जवाब दे सकते हैं । मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि आज आप कोई तसल्लीबख्श जवाब दे दें जो कि मैं जा कर उन से कह दूं कि क्लेम्स में अभी कुछ देर तो है मगर तुम को इतना पैसा मिल जायेगा । आप बिल को पास कर दीजिये मगर मेरी दरख्वास्त है कि आप कोई ऐसा जवाब दें कि जिस से उन को तसल्ली हो ।

एक और बात है जिस की तरफ़ ज्ञानी गुरमुख सिंह साहब ने तवज्जह दिलाई है । आप ने मेहरबानी कर के स्टेट सरकारों से यह कह दिया है उन के कर्जे जिन के क्लेम्स हैं वह उन क्लेम्स में ऐडजस्ट (adjust) कर दिये जायें । मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि कल जो ज्ञानी साहब को जवाब दिया गया उस में फ़ोर्स (force) है । लेकिन मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि क्या इस चीज में फ़ोर्स नहीं है कि एक शख्स जिस को आप ने कर्ज दिया है और वह कहता है कि जो क्लेम मेरा सरकार के पास है उस क्लेम के खिलाफ़ मेरे कर्जे को ऐडजस्ट कर दिया जाय । इस में कोई बेजा बात नहीं है । हम बराबर देखते आये हैं सिविल प्रोसीज्यर कोड (Civil Procedure Code) में और दूसरे कानूनों में कि कर्जा इस तरह क्लेम के खिलाफ़ ऐडजस्ट हो जाता है । आप इस को रिऐडजस्ट (readjust) करने में क्य दिक्कत महसूस करते हैं । महज इस वजह से कि सरकार देर पर देर लगा रही है वह क्यों न अपनी चीज को इस्तेमाल करे ।

आनरेबुल मिनिस्टर साहब शिकायत करते हैं कि लोगों ने क्लेम नहीं दिये । मैं उन को याद दिला सकता हूं कि पेश्तर भी उन्होंने क्लेम्स दिये थे करोड़ों रुपये के, लेकिन उन का कुछ नहीं हुआ । यह हो सकता है कि वह एग्जेजेरेटेड (exaggerated) थे और अनरियल (unreal) थे लेकिन जिस तरह आप ने आज एनाउंस किया कि कौन क्लेम रियल है और कौन अनरियल है यह चीज आप उस वक्त भी तो कर सकते थे । यह फ़ैसला चार साल पहले भी हो सकता था । मैं यह नहीं कहना चाहता कि इस देरी के लिये क़ुसूरवार कौन है । इस में हालात का क़ुसूर है लेकिन कम से कम रिफ़्यूजीज का तो कोई क़ुसूर नहीं है । इस वास्ते मैं अदब से अर्ज कर देना चाहता हूं कि जब हाउस इस बिल को पास करे तो हाउस का यह फ़र्ज है कि रिफ़्यूजीज के मामले की तरफ़ सरकार की ज़ोर से तवज्जह दिलाये कि जहां तक उन के क्लेम्स का सवाल है उस को तै करने में देर चाहे हो जाये पर सब से पहले यह एनाउंस कर दिया जाय कि कितना कितना एमाउंट दिया जायगा । इस का हम को जवाब मिलना चाहिये ।

इन अल्फ़ाज के साथ में बजोर इस बिल की ताईद करता हूं कि फ़ौरन इस बिल को पास कर दिया जाय ।

(English translation of the above speech)

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, I never intended to take the time of the House over a Bill which is so small yet urgent. There is no doubt that none can oppose this Bill; and those who are acquainted with the work of the hon. Minister, will remember the intelligence, industry and caution with which he completed this work. He deserves nothing but tributes from us all, and we, too, should have faith in his work as also expect the best from him that will be in our interests.

So far as the fundamentals of this Bill are concerned, I support them and also appreciate the services rendered in connection with the refugees' rehabilitation by the hon. Minister. The only misfortune is that the problem of refugees is too big for the Government of India. What is more sorrowful is to see our Government not doing anything which it would certainly do for the solution of problems which can no doubt be solved. The subordinate officers of our Government never care for the promises made to us by our Government.

Having just now heard Sardar Hukam Singh I am reminded of the Delhi Premises Eviction Bill passed by this House. We worked for one long year on the Select Committee for the said Bill, and caused the hon. Minister to give an assurance to the House. What was that assurance? It was that the houses built by the refugees settled in Delhi for residential purposes before August 1950 would not be dismantled without the policy being discussed by the Committee. Our hon. Minister assured the House and took up three members of the Parliament in that Committee. This Committee comprised of some Ministers also. Its first meeting was held and some cases were put before us, but the meeting came to a close before anything could be discussed or anything substantial could be done. In spite of all this, people read in the newspapers about the decisions which were not at all arrived at in the Committee, but somebody who had misrepresented the facts got this news published that the refugees would be removed from such and such areas. We complained to the hon. Minister against this misrepresentation and contradicted the news to which the hon. Minister agreed saying that the incident had never happened and that somebody had blundered. I do not know who blundered but another meeting of this Committee never came off. We gave in writing to the hon. Minister that we had taken no such decision, but before anything else could be done, I was shocked to learn from some refugees that about 70 houses, each one costing not less than five thousand rupees, had been levelled to the ground by the Police and the occupants removed to Tehar in the dead of night at 11 o'clock. I learnt that amongst these victims there was also a woman who had given birth to a child only three days previous to this incident. Some of these people, who had come to me some days before, told me about the notice they had received. I assured them that such a thing could never happen and unless the Committee decided something, the houses would not be dismantled. Expressing their helplessness they told me that they were homeless again and there was no refuge for them. They further said that they would give a tough fight if they were removed from their houses, since there was no hope of settlement left for them. They belonged to Peshawar. Assuring them again I advised them not to think in those terms. But when I came to know that their houses were dismantled I was shocked very much. The husband of the confined woman took up a *lathi* and told those people to kill him first and then his wife because, as he said, his wife would die if removed in that condition. That gentleman, however, injured some persons when his wife was removed in that very condition. Hearing this incident a Magistrate of Delhi went to the spot and appeasing them sent all of them to Tehar. If law declares it right that the houses of these refugees be dismantled and that they be rendered homeless, I do not object to it. However, I do very much object to this action of the Government that 70 houses were dismantled without the Committee coming to any decision, in spite of the assurance given here in the House that no houses would be dismantled unless it was so decided by the Committee. People say that the Government are also going to dismantle all other houses of the refugees there. I do not know of any law which authorises the Government to dismantle years-old houses without the permission of the Committee. I endorse the view of Giani Gurmukh Singh and respectfully submit that such actions need delay. How would it matter after all if the houses which had got to be dismantled were dismantled after some days. I have this very grievance against the hon. Minister. Previously also I had told him this thing

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

and I do it again now. Had the hon. Minister taken up this matter in his own hands, as I have already submitted that the Rehabilitation Department is bound to protect all the refugees, such a tragedy would have never come off and these seventy families could not have been rendered homeless. I regret to say that because of the carelessness of the hon. Minister's Department this calamity befell these homeless refugees. Here I want to bring to his notice that even one day's delay in deciding claims means an indescribable misfortune for these people. Every refugee wants a speedy disposal of his claim. The more it is sped up, the greater help it means. How can I express the condition of these refugees, who are devoid of tears even with the intensity of misfortunes: they have lost all faith in you now. This big problem of refugees stares you in the face now. Everyday you claim the credit that you have settled so many refugees. This, no doubt, is a matter of credit. No Government on the surface of this globe could do such a feat as has been done by ours; but, do listen to their complaints as well. I mentioned in the last session that the refugees at Palwal, who are about 800 in number, are still residing in camps. I was told that houses have been built for 1,000 people. I, however, want to ask why should there be a clamour for the houses alone? These houses have not been completed even by now. I would like to bring to your notice that these people in Palwal are starving; they have no work and are placed in such a condition as cannot even be imagined by you. Deciding of claims, etc., is a thing so big and distant; unless something is planned for their livelihood, nothing will be effective. They say that they have no work though they possess both physique and acumen for doing any job.

Likewise, there are a few of them at Faridabad. You helped some of them by providing jobs to them at Okhla and to others you are providing jobs in Delhi; but I would respectfully submit that in spite of this all there are still 3,000 such persons in Faridabad even who have no work. You say that you are going to speed up the verification of claims, but for how many of them are you going to do so? You have only taken up claims for some property, while big claims for movable property, such as shops and furnished houses full of goods, covering crores of rupees, are left untouched. Neither Pakistan nor you are going to give them any compensation for that. This much about claims. Deciding the claims does not mean putting money into somebody's pocket or giving him bread. Tell us how far you have verified the prices of the property, and what will you pay for each when something is decided? This problem needs consideration. Sardar Hukam Singh said the other day that the rate of compensation should be eight annas in the rupee at least.

Shri Hukam Singh: You opposed it at that then.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I did oppose it then because I wanted the Government to pay more than one-half. I say it even now that it would give me pleasure if the Government give more than one-half. I never said that the Government should not give compensation: that time I had questioned as to what was the total value of the claims, to which no answer was given. Had the hon. Minister given an answer to that, I would then have asked him about the total value of the evacuee property, so that we could have known if they were going to pay eight annas, four annas or two annas.

I know it. From what I have heard about the extent to which you intend meeting these claims it would be better if you could go on deferring their payment as long as possible, for the day you make the announcement regarding the rate of payment for these claims, thousands of men, women and children will weep bitterly when they would come to know the poor rate in which the payment would be made. One healthy result of delaying the announcement would be to put off their ultimate disillusionment. You may make any payment you like: be it one-half or one-fourth, but defer this Bill as long as you can, because the day you announce that you want to pay say one and a half annas per rupee of the claimed sum, these people would be dead dismayed. I want to submit that the question is not one of delay or expedition, but the issue revolves round the answer you would ultimately give.

Different people talk in different ways and look at this problem from different angles when the question about the Evacuee Property pool comes up. I do not want to be unjust to anybody. If your predecessor has made any statement because of which the pool is decreasing, I can but regret that. But, as the refugees complain, is it not a fact that the sympathies of the Government for the refugees are waning? If you make any more delays, the remaining sympathy would also be exhausted till it dies away. I

would like to submit that this question be solved as soon as possible. You may delay claims, but do immediately solve the question as to how much payment you are willing to make and the contribution that the Government will make. They will be satisfied if this question is solved. You may delay the Bill, however, but do answer this question.

Refugees come to me and ask me if they should enter the claims, and whether they would get something as compensation. I can never give them an answer that would satisfy them. I understand the hon. Minister must be sympathising with them more than I do, but I do not know if he too can give a satisfactory answer to this question. I want to submit that today you should give me a satisfactory answer which I will convey to them saying that though there is still some delay in the payment of their claims but that they would get so much money. You may pass the Bill but my submission is that you should give such a reply as might satisfy them.

There is one more thing to which our attention has been drawn by Giani Gurmukh Singh. He has very kindly represented to the State Governments that the loans of the people may be adjusted against their claims lodged with the Government. It is said that there is force in what Gyani Ji said yesterday. I would respectfully like to ask if there is no force in the plea of a man who says that the amount of his claim lying with the Government may be adjusted against the loan he has taken. There is nothing unreasonable in that demand. We have been observing that in Civil Procedure Code and other provisions of law loans are adjusted against claims. Why should you find such a readjustment difficult? Is he to be barred from using what is his own just because the Government is persistently delaying a settlement?

The hon. Minister complains that some pepole did not submit their claims. I can remind him that previously also these pepole had submitted claims worth crores of rupees, but all that was in vain. Maybe those claims have been exaggerated and unreal, but then also you could as you did this time very easily announce as to which of those were real and which unreal. This decision could as well be taken four years earlier. I do not mean to say who stands responsible for this delay. Circumstances are to blame but not the refugees, at least. I would like to submit respectfully therefore that while passing this Bill it should be the duty of the House to draw the attention of the Government to these cases of refugees, and so far as the claims go, an announcement should be made first of all as to what amount is going to be given, no matter if the decision gets delayed. We must get an answer to this question regarding the payment.

With these words I strongly support the Bill and want it to be passed immediately.

Several Hon. Members *rose*—

Mr. Chairman: All hon. Members will have opportunities. In a Bill there is no restriction regarding time or number of speakers unless the House feels at any particular time that there has been sufficient discussion and moves for closure. Even then it is open to the Chair to find out if there has been sufficient discussion or not. I shall give opportunities to all hon. Members one after another.

श्री नन्द लाल शर्मा : माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं ने स्वयं राष्ट्रपति के भाषण पर भी इस विषय में संशोधन दिया था और उस समय अवसर न मिलने के कारण आज इस बिल के सम्बन्ध में अपने विचार प्रकट करता हूं।

शरणार्थी, जिस को उत्पीड़ित अथवा उत्थापित के नाम से आज पुकारा जा रहा है, दुर्भाग्यवश उस को किसी ने शरण दी नहीं किन्तु शरणार्थी नाम रख दिया। मुझे भारतीय जनता के प्रति किसी प्रकार का भी उपालम्भ नहीं है क्योंकि मुझे स्मरण है कि जिस वक्त खुरजा स्टेशन पर शरणार्थियों से भरी हुई रेलगाड़ियां आती थीं उस वक्त यहां की जनता शाक और पूड़ी लोगों को खिलाती थी। लोग यह पदार्थ बैलगाड़ियों पर लाद लाद कर वहां ला रहे थे। मैं उसी स्टेशन पर एक तरफ़ घूम रहा था। किसी ने मेरी तरफ़ नहीं देखा। कोई पहचान नहीं सकता था कि यह भी शरणार्थी हो सकता है। I tell you I belong to the farthest corner of India, westward of Peshawar.

एक माननीय सदस्य : हिन्दी में बोलिये।

श्री नन्द लाल शर्मा : धन्यवाद, मैं हिन्दी में इसलिये बोल रहा हूं कि मैं ने पहले कहा था कि यह भारतीय संसद् है और मैं राष्ट्रपति को धन्यवाद देता हूं कि उन्होंने अपना पहला भाषण हिन्दी में ही दिया ।

एक माननीय सदस्य : आप को तो संस्कृत में बोलना चाहिये ।

श्री नन्द लाल शर्मा : मैं संस्कृत में भी बोलूंगा और यदि आवश्यकता पड़ेगी तो पश्तो में भी बोलूंगा । मैं पश्तो से लेकर गुजरात तक की और देश के एक कोने से दूसरे कोने तक की बहुत सी भाषाओं को जानता हूं ।

तो मैं वहां एक शरणार्थी होने के नाते चुप बैठा हुआ था । कुछ लोगों ने मेरी तरफ़ देखा और कहने लगे कि आप की आंखों में आंसू क्यों आ गये । मैं ने कहा आप आज इन लोगों को पूड़ी खिला रहे हो, इन का इतना बड़ा स्वागत कर रहे हो, लेकिन स्मरण रहे कि यह तुम्हारे घर में मेहमान नहीं हैं । यह लौट कर अपने घर जाने वाले नहीं हैं । यह वह अभागे हैं जिन को यहीं रहना है । आप ऐसा प्रबन्ध करें कि यह लोग सूखी रोटी भी जीवन भर खा सकें । इन को पूड़ी मत खिलाइये । मैं कहता हूं कि अगर उन लोगों ने अपना नाम बदल दिया होता और अपने धर्म के थोड़े से चिन्हों को छोड़ दिया होता तो वह वहां पर बैठे रहते और शरणार्थी नहीं बनते । और न यह नौबत आती कि उन के बाल बच्चे काटे जाते । वह लोग यहां आये । पहले पहल तो जनता की उन के प्रति बड़ी सहानुभूति थी । जनता थोड़ी बहुत सहायता करती रही, लेकिन फिर जब देखा कि यह तो ६०, ७० लाख आये हैं और एक एक शहर में पचास पचास हजार या एक एक दो दो लाख बस गये हैं और उन लोगों की वजह से हमारे व्यापार में भी विघ्न पड़ रहा है तो उन्होंने सोचा कि चैरिटी बिगिन्स ऐट होम (Charity begins at home) । उन्होंने देखा यह तो हमारा ही भोजन ले रहे हैं । दुर्भाग्य से यहां आप का एक रिहैबिलिटेशन डिपार्टमेंट (Rehabilitation Deptt.) बना और रिहैबिलिटेशन डिपार्टमेंट ने काम बहुत किया । किन्तु आज तक शरणार्थियों को यह विश्वास नहीं हुआ कि रिहैबिलिटेशन डिपार्टमेंट में जा कर कोई शरणार्थी एक कौड़ी का भी लाभ उठा सकता है । कहा जाता है कि करोड़ों रुपया शरणार्थियों पर खर्च हो रहा है और हो चुका है । लेकिन प्रश्न यह है कि जो खर्चा शरणार्थियों पर किया गया उस में से कितनी कौड़ियां उन की जेब में गई हैं । अधिकतर शरणार्थी जो कि दरिद्र हैं और जो वस्तुतः सहायता के अधिकारी हैं वह इन कार्यालयों तक पहुंचने की भी हिम्मत नहीं करते । ऐसी परिस्थिति में उन के लिये इस से क्या लाभ हुआ ।

कहा जाता है कि अप्रैल १९५० से यहां क्लेम (claim) आने आरम्भ हुए । मेरा यह दावा है कि इस से पूर्व भी क्लेम दिये गये थे लेकिन उन क्लेम्स को रद्दी की टोकरी में ही नहीं फैंका गया बल्कि उन को बांध कर न जाने कौन से पाताल में भेज दिया गया कि आज उनका पता भी नहीं चलता । अस्तु । शरणार्थियों को क्लेम्स के सम्बन्ध में कोई विश्वास नहीं है । मैं अपने सहयोगी श्री ठाकुर दास भार्गव जी का अनुमोदन करता हूं कि आज तक किसी शरणार्थी को यह विश्वास नहीं है कि उस की चार फूटी कौड़ी भी मिलेंगी या नहीं । इस से बढ़ कर शरणार्थियों का दुर्भाग्य और क्य

हो सकता है कि लाखों के वेतन भोगी लोगों को बार बार एक्सटेंशन (extension) दिया जाता है और कहा यह जाता है कि यह सारा खर्चा शरणार्थी विभाग पर किया जा रहा है।

खर्चा तो गवर्नमेंट मशीनरी पर होता है, गवर्नमेंट प्लानिंग (Government Planning) पर होता है और कहा जाता है कि खर्चा शरणार्थियों पर हो रहा है, शरणार्थी विभाग पर इतना खर्चा हो गया। इसलिये मेरा यह कहना है कि शरणार्थियों के साथ अन्याय नहीं होना चाहिये।

जैसा हमारे सरदारजी श्री गुरमुख सिंह जी मुसाफ़िर ने कहा मैं एक बात कह देना चाहता हूं। पश्चिमी पंजाब से आये हुए शरणार्थियों को जो कृषि सम्पत्ति दी गयी उन को तो पूर्वी पंजाब में दे दी गयी। किन्तु फ्रंटियर, सिन्ध और बलूचिस्तान के लोगों को कहां फका जा रहा है, इस का कुछ पता नहीं। किस किस प्रकार के जंगल उन को आबाद करने के लिये दे दिये जाते हैं। चार यहां पर फैंक दिये गये तो चार को जबलपुर में भेज दिया गया और चार को और कहीं पर। इस तरह दिल्ली के आस पास उन को बसाने का जो विचार किया गया था आज उस का कहीं भी पता नहीं चलता। इस के अतिरिक्त यहां की हालत देखिये। आप को अभी ७० मकान गिराये जाने की खबर मिली है। यमुना तट पर आज भी रिफ़्यूजी डिपार्टमेंट की तरफ़ से शामियाना लगा हुआ है जहां पर वह लोग पड़े हुए हैं जिनकी कुटियां बिल्कुल जल कर राख हो गईं और वह बेचारे आज शामियाने में पड़े हैं। किसी वक़्त उस सड़क पर मोटर और तांगे आते थे, उसी सड़क पर वहां अब उन के लिये गवर्नमेंट की तरफ़ से शामियाना लगा हुआ है और अब उस सड़क पर ट्रैफ़िक बन्द है और वह शामियाना आज तक नहीं उठाया जा सका और न उन के लिये कोई और प्रबन्ध किया जा सका है।

इसी तरह हरिद्वार के अन्दर जहां कि धर्मशालाओं में कुछ शरणार्थी ठहरे हुए थे आज उन को नोटिस दिये जा रहे हैं। यह मेरे सामने की बात है कि जब कलैक्टर की तरफ़ से आर्डर्स आये कि "within 15 days you shall have to vacate or you will be removed by force". तुम को डंडे के बल से यहां से हटाया जायगा, हरिद्वार से निकाल दिये जाओगे। अब वह बेचारे पूछते हैं कि हम जायें कहां? उन से कहा जाता है कि यहां से दो मील दूर, तीन मील दूर, तुम्हारे लिये झोंपड़ियां बना दी गई हैं, वहां चले जाओ। यहां पर उस बेचारे की दूकान है जिस के द्वारा उस ने मुश्किल से अपने भोजन का प्रबन्ध किया है। वह कहते हैं कि तुम भूखे मरो, चाहे जीओ चाहे मरो, लेकिन यहां से हट जाओ।

मेरे कहने का अभिप्राय यह है कि आज तक उन लोगों का प्रबन्ध किये बिना यहां एक्सटेंशन पर एक्सटेंशन मांगा जा रहा है। हम इस चीज़ का विरोध नहीं करते कि काम पूरा नहीं करना चाहिये। सात लाख क्लेम्स हुए और दो लाख ढाई लाख क्लेम्स और हो जायेंगे। फिर गवर्नमेंट और भी क्लेम्स इनवाइट (invite) करेगी कि तुम दस बीस लाख क्लेम्स और दे दो। लेकिन क्लेम्स जहां से देने हैं उन के बारे में कुछ नहीं कहा जाता। अगर गवर्नमेंट को यह प्राबलैम (problem) हल करनी होती तो उसके पास जो सम्पत्ति यहां पर विद्यमान है उस सम्पत्ति पर पहला अधिकार शरणार्थियों को देती कि यह सम्पत्ति तुम्हारे अधिकार की है, इस पर

[श्री नन्द लाल शर्मा]

पहला क्लेम तुम्हारा होगा । लेकिन जहां तक गवर्नमेंट का इस बारे में सम्बन्ध है उस ने इस विषय में कभी नहीं कहा और वह कभी इस बात को मानने को तैयार नहीं है कि इस सम्पत्ति में से तुम को दिया जायगा । छतरीवाला केस के सम्बन्ध में जो कुछ किया गया और पिछले कस्टोडियन जनरल (Custodian General) को जिस बात पर त्यागपत्र देना पड़ा शरणार्थियों के हृदय पर वह बात लिखी हुई है । शरणार्थी भली प्रकार जानते हैं कि छतरीवाला केस के सम्बन्ध में क्या निर्णय हुआ और वह जानते हैं कि हमारे साथ क्या क्या न्याय होने वाला है । वह यह भी जानते हैं कि उन के यहां से चले जाने के लिये भी कोई दूसरा रास्ता नहीं है । वह अपने आप को भारत के निवासी समझ कर यहां आये थे । वह यह समझ कर नहीं आये थे कि हम को एक विदेशी समझ कर वह व्यवहार किया जायगा जो एक दूसरे देश के साथ, शत्रु देश के निवासी के साथ, किया जाता है । परन्तु अपने देश में आने पर भी उन को अपने देश का न समझ कर अन्य देश वाला समझा गया और सिर्फ़ इतना ही नहीं बल्कि जो कांग्रेस के वहां प्रैसीडेंट थे वह लोग यहां आये और उन लोगों तक को नहीं पूछा गया । बाद में वहां से आने वाले लोगों को पाकिस्तानी मुसलमानों ने रिकमैंड किया कि अरे तुम नहीं जानते हो यह लोग कौन हैं, यह वहां इतने बड़े आदमी थे तो उन के कहने को तो भले ही मान लिया लेकिन शरणार्थियों के कहने को नहीं माना । मुझे मिनिस्टर साहब क्षमा करेंगे जब मैं यह कहता हूं कि उन के आफ़िसेज में बैठे हुए कई व्यक्तियों को मैं जानता हूं जो बाहर तो हैट लगाया करते हैं लेकिन जब हमारे प्रधान मंत्री के सम्मुख आते हैं तो सिर पर कांग्रेस की टोपी लगलेते हैं और बतलाते हैं कि हम तो पक्के कांग्रेसी हैं । ऐसे व्यक्तियों को लाखों रुपयों की सहायता मिल सकती है, परन्तु वस्तुतः जो शरणार्थी हैं, जो सहायता के योग्य हैं उन को किसी प्रकार की सहायता नहीं मिलती ।

मेरा यह कहना है कि अभी जो सरकार इस काम को कर रही है भले ही आवश्यक कार्य है । लेकिन उस के लिये बराबर निरन्तर समय बढ़ाते रहने से जो अश्रद्धा और अविश्वास की भावना उत्पन्न होगी उस को हटाना चाहिये । जैसा श्री चटर्जी ने कहा, छः मास का विचार बिल्कुल उपयुक्त है । छः मास के बाद भी तो यह निर्णय करना है कि कुछ देना है या नहीं । अभी तो क्लेम्स तस्दीक़ होंगे, उस के बाद क्या देना है इस का निर्णय होगा । इसलिये मेरा आप लोगों से, सारे हाउस से, यह निवेदन है कि इस काम को जल्दी करें । अभी तो हम रिहैबिलिटेशन के बारे में सुन रहे हैं । एक बात यह है कि जो मकान पहले क़िस्तों पर मिला करते थे उन को भी रोक लिया गया है । कहते हैं कि अब जो पूरी रक़म देंगे उन को ही बेचे जावेंगे । अब बताइये कि क्या शरणार्थियों ने इस बीच में लाखों करोड़ों रुपये कमा लिये हैं जिस से कि वह पूरी रक़म देने के योग्य हो गये हैं जिस से उन को इंस्टालमेंट से मकान मिलना बन्द हो गया । इसलिये मेरा रिहैबीलिटेशन मिनिस्टर से यह नम्र निवेदन है, हो सकता है मेरे शब्द कुछ दर्द से भरे हों, ...

श्री ए० पी० जैन : आप के शब्द ग़लत भी हैं ।

श्री नन्द लाल शर्मा : हो सकता हैं ग़लत भी हों, क्योंकि आप सामने कह रहे हैं कि ग़लत हैं । लेकिन मैं जिन जिन बातों को

अपनी आंखों से देखता हूं उन के बारे में क्या कहूं । मैं ने यह नहीं कहा कि मैं ने अखबारी दुनिया से पढ़ कर कोई बातें कही हैं। अगर मैं यमुना तट की बात करता हूं, हरिद्वार की बात कहता हूं तो यह मेरी बातें आंखों देखी हुई हैं । फिर भी क्योंकि मिनिस्टर साहब ने यह कहा है कि मेरे शब्द ग़लत हैं तो मैं उन के आगे मंजूर करता हूं । किन्तु निवेदन है कि वह इस एक्सटेंशन को जितना कम कर सकें उतना कम करने का प्रयत्न करें और अपने कार्य को जितनी अधिक शीघ्रता से समाप्त कर सकें वह करें और केवल गवर्नमेंट मशीनरी बना कर एक निर्जीव, निष्प्राण और निहृदय भावना से मैकेनिकल फ़ोर्स (mechanical force) से काम न करें। मनुष्य को मनुष्य की भावना से समझ कर काम करेंगे तो यह सारा डिपार्टमेंट बदल जायगा ।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri N. L. Sharma (Sikar): Sir, I had given notice of an amendment to the President's Address in this connection and as I did not find any opportunity to express my ideas on this subject on that occasion, I welcome this opportunity.

Refugees, who are called displaced persons at present, did not find any refuge anywhere in spite of the fact that they were named refugees. I have no grievance against the Indian people, because I remember well how people entertained the refugees with *puries* and vegetables when they arrived at the Khurja Station in those overcrowded railway compartments. People used to bring these things on their bullock-carts from far off places even. I was moving to and fro on that Station. Nobody paid any attention to me. Nobody could recognise that I too was a refugee. I tell you, I belong to the farthest corner of India, westward of Peshawar.

An Hon. Member: Please speak on in Hindi.

Shri N. L. Sharma: Thanks, I was expressing my ideas in Hindi because this is Indian Parliament and I thank our President for having delivered his Address first in Hindi.

An Hon. Member: You ought to speak in Sanskrit.

Shri N. L. Sharma: I would speak in Sanskrit also and, if necessary, would speak in Pushtu also. I am familiar with different languages, varying from Pushtu to Gajerati, spoken in various parts of this country.

So being a refugee I was sitting quietly there. Some persons looked towards me and enquired of me as to why tears were coming in my eyes. I told them that they were receiving those refugees with open arms and were entertaining them with *puries* and vegetables but they were not their guests in the sense that they would return to their homes after some time. Adding further that they were those unfortunate persons who were to remain here. I asked them to arrange things in such a way that they may be able to get simple bread for the whole of their life. I asked them not to entertain them. I say that had these persons changed their names and bidden good-bye to some of their religious marks—they could have remained there and would have no longer been refugees. No question of their ladies and children being murdered would have arisen. But they came here. In the beginning people were very sympathetic towards them, they continued to help them, but when they saw that their number swelled to sixty to seventy lakhs and that they were found in thousands in every town and city and that because of these people their trade was handicapped, they began to think in terms of the adage, 'charity begins at home'. They felt that the refugees were laying their hands on their own livelihoods.

Unfortunately Rehabilitation Department was established, and this department did a lot of work. But up till now no refugee has come to believe that anybody could get any help from this Rehabilitation Department. It is said that crores of rupees are being spent on refugees. But the question is how much out of this huge sum actually went into the pockets of the refugees. Most of the refugees, who are poor and who, in fact, deserve this help, dare not to go to these officers. Under these circumstances it can be asked how far they have benefitted from this Department?

It is said that the Department began to receive the claims in April 1950. I say claims had, in fact, been submitted even before that date. But they not only were thrown in the waste-paper

basket but perhaps were kept at some place wherefrom they could not be traced at all afterwards. Well, refugees have no faith in this claims business. I support the contention of my colleague Shri Thakur Das Bhargava that refugees never believed that they would ever get even a single penny as compensation. What greater misfortune can there be for refugees than the service extensions which are repeatedly being granted to highly paid officers and we are told that all this is being spent on the Rehabilitation Department. Though money is being spent on the Governmental machinery as also on their planning but it is said that all this is being spent on refugees, as well as on the department which was established for them. My contention is that such injustice should not be done to the refugees.

I would like to say, as Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir has already said that the refugees who came from West Punjab were allotted agricultural lands in the East Punjab. But it is not known what happened to those persons who came from the Frontier Province, Sind or Baluchistan. What sort of jungles have been given to them, is not known to us. Some are kept here, some are sent to Jabalpur and some to other destinations. In the same way, nothing is known about the proposals for rehabilitating them in the suburbs of Delhi. Besides we can see what is happening here. You have just now received the report that seventy houses have been demolished. Even today you would find a canopy installed by the Rehabilitation Department on the bank of the river Jamuna where those persons, whose huts were burnt down in a recent fire, have been accommodated. There was a time when the place, where refugees have now been sheltered, was open to traffic. Now it is closed to traffic and the canopies are still there. No arrangements have been made for those persons.

In the same way, in Hardwar notices are being served upon the refugees staying in the various *dharmashalas* to vacate those *dharmashalas*. I have myself seen orders from the Collector addressed to the refugees, directing them, "within 15 days you shall have to vacate or you will be removed by force". In brief, they would be removed forcibly from those places or in other words from Hardwar proper. These poor people ask where should they go. They are told to move two or three miles away from Hardwar where huts have been built for them. They have their shops in the town from which they make their scanty livelihood. But the administration is asking them to vacate no matter whether they live or die.

What I mean to say is that without doing anything for such persons we are repeatedly being asked to grant extensions after extensions. We do not oppose it nor do we want that the work should not be completed. Seven lakh claims have already been received and two or two and a half lakh claims are still to be received. The Government would invite more claims asking people to submit ten or twenty lakh more claims. But nothing is said about the sources wherefrom these claims are to be met. If the Government wanted to solve this problem they could have given first lien to the refugees on those properties which were lying with them and would have declared "that they would have a right to this property, and theirs would be the first claim over it." But so far as the Government are concerned they have never said so and would never be prepared to agree to the proposition that the claims of the refugees would be met from that property. What happened in Chhatriwala case and the circumstances under which the last Custodian General had to submit his resignation are things that would ever remain fresh in the minds of the refugees. The refugees know it fully well what has been the decision, with regard to Chhatriwala case and they know what justice is going to be done to them. They also realise that they have no other way out. They came here in the belief that they were nationals of India. They never came here with the impression that they would be treated like foreigners or like persons who come from some enemy country. But they were treated as foreigners even though they had come to their own country. Not only that but even those persons who played a prominent part in the Congress organisation there—some had been presidents—were badly neglected here. Only afterwards when the Pakistani Muslims recommended them, giving their antecedents that they were perhaps recognised. They were possibly impressed by that recommendation, but the refugees were not taken at their word. The hon. Minister would excuse me when I say that I know several such persons in his office who outside their office use hats etc. but when they come before the Prime Minister, they wear Gandhi Caps and say that they are true Congressites. But the persons, who are real refugees and deserve every help, are not being given any help whatsoever.

I submit that the steps which the Government are taking may be necessary steps. But the sense of mistrust and frustration which would arise by the extension of the time-limit time and again must be removed. As Shri Chatterji put it, extending the period for six months instead of one year would be more than sufficient. Even after that period it is to be decided whether anything is to be given to the refugees or not. For the present the claims would be verified and after that it is to be decided what is to be given. So I request you Sir, and the House as a whole that this work should be completed as soon as possible. We were just now hearing about the rehabilitation work. One thing is that the houses which were formerly being given on instalment basis, are not being given so now. It is said that houses would be allotted to those persons only who would pay the price in lump sum. Now please tell me if the refugees have earned lacs and crores of rupees in this short span of five years which has enabled them to pay the cost of the houses in a lump sum. Is there any justification for the stoppage of allotment of houses on the instalment basis? So my humble request to the hon. Minister of Rehabilitation is—it is possible that my words may be full of anguish.....

Shri A. P. Jain: Your words are wrong as well.

Shri N. L. Sharma: They may even be wrong because you are saying in my face that they are wrong. But what about those things which I have seen with my own eyes? I do not say that I am stating things which I have read in newspapers. If I say anything about the refugees living in Hardwar or on the bank of the river Jamuna here, that is what I have seen with my own eyes on the spot.

And yet I submit to the hon. Minister when he says that my words are wrong. But I request him to lessen the period of extension as much as possible and finish this work with as much speed as possible, and not to pursue it half-heartedly, or in a mechanical way, devoid of the human touch. The whole Department would change overnight if men are treated like men.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta North-East): I do not propose to take much of the time of this House, but I think the Minister of Rehabilitation should be very well advised to accept the suggestion which has been offered from this side of the House (*An Hon Member:* Not from your side) that if he is going to act in conformity with the Statement of Objects and Reasons, then he ought to accept the amendments which have been offered, and the amendment in particular which has been tabled by Lala Achint Ram. I say this because I come from Bengal and the question of refugee rehabilitation is a matter which is nearest to our hearts, and we know how the refugees from Pakistan have shown character and grit, determination and a spirit of self-help, of which you find so many striking examples in the City of Delhi, for example. There is no question about the distress to which the refugees have been reduced, and there is no question also about their own honest efforts for rehabilitation. As far as the Government's attempts to assist the refugees and put them on their feet are concerned, I should think that the hon. Minister of Rehabilitation should come forward in a more helpful spirit and should accept the amendment, so that he need not have one year's extension of the Act, but six months, which, I am sure should be considered appropriate by this House.

I would refer the hon. Minister to what he has himself said in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. He says that the whole operation of this Act was delayed because, many of the refugees, not knowing very much about the subtle intricacies of the law, committed some delay in putting in their applications. He has also said that his office was under-staffed and the result of it was that he could not go ahead with his job as promptly and as efficiently as the Act required. He says also that the position in West Pakistan was so peculiar that there were certain extraordinary difficulties in regard to verification of these claims. In spite of all these, his office has succeeded, on his own computation, in verifying more than two-thirds of the claims which had been submitted. That is why he himself has come forward with a guarantee that he is going to complete the job in four months' time. I would say that if the hon. Minister is in a position to assure us that his job can be completed in four months' time, that is, if the refugees who are in an extremely distressing psychological condition can have the assurance that in four months' time, more or less, their claims are going to be acted upto, I do not see any reason why the Minister should ask for an extension, as far as the Act is concerned, for a whole year.

As a matter of fact, our experience of the operation of the bureaucratic machinery is such that once you get

[Shri H. N. Mukerjee]

an extension of this sort, further similar extensions follow, and the imperative nature of the task gets blurred and overlooked. There is always this danger that if the refugees, about whose distress I need not say anything now because that has been dwelt upon by so many hon. Members present here, get a feeling that their claims are going to be shelved, as they are likely to be, if this Act is extended for as long as one year, that would be an undesirable state of affairs. That being so, I should suggest to the hon. Minister of Rehabilitation that in view of what he himself has said, in view of his own guarantee and assurance, in view of his Statement of Objects and Reasons where he has said that already two-thirds of the claims have already been verified, he should accept the proposition which has been made from this side, and shorten the proceedings by accepting the amendment of Lala Achint Ram.

I support the amendment tabled by Lala Achint Ram.

लाला अचिन्त राम : श्रीमान्, मैं ने यह अमेंडमेंट दिया था और मुझे अफ़सोस है कि मैं उस वक्त यहां नहीं बैठा हुआ था। मैं ने दिल में खयाल किया कि आया इस बिल का स्वागत करूं या अस्वागत करूं। सच बात यह है कि मैं इस बिल का स्वागत भी करता हूं और अस्वागत भी करता हूं।

आप पूछेंगे कैसे? स्वागत इस वास्ते करता हूं कि इस बिल को हमारे मुअज्जिज़ टिप्टी मिनिस्टर साहब ने पेश किया है जिन के लिये मेरे दिल के अन्दर बड़ी इज्जत है। जब उन्होंने पहले शासन हाथ में लिया उस वक्त नावाक़िफ़ थे लेकिन जिस वक़्त से काम शुरू किया है तब से रिफ्यूजीज़ के इंटरेस्ट (interest) में जिस मेहनत और जांफ़िशानी से काम करते रहे हैं और किया है उस से मुझे दिल में यक़ीन हो गया है कि जो काम यह करेंगे वह उन के इंटरेस्ट में करेंगे और जो काम यह करें उस के लिये मेरे दिल में इज्जत है और यह चीज़ मुझे मजबूर करती है कि मैं इस बिल का स्वागत करूं।

अस्वागत क्यों करता हूं वह इस वजह से कि जो बेगुनाह होते हैं उन पर भी बाज चीजें थोपी जाती हैं। मैं ने सुना कि शहर के अन्दर, दिल्ली के अन्दर, ७० मकान उखाड़े गये और इस से बड़ी तकलीफ़ हुई। मैं चाहता था कि यह मकान न उखाड़े जायें लेकिन उस वक़्त मैं मौजूद था और मैं कह सकता हूं कि दिल्ली की हकूमत ने निहायत हमदर्दी से काम लिया। यह कहा गया कि ७० एक ही जगह जायेंगे और मैं ने उस वक़्त दिल्ली की हकूमत से दरख्वास्त की कि आप इनकी बातें मान लीजिये और उन्होंने ७० के ७० को, सब के सब को इकट्ठे जगह दे दी। मैं मानता हूं कि जो अच्छी बात हो उस पर भी गिला किया जाय तो मुनासिब न होगा और अन्याय होगा

पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव : क्या मैं आनरेबिल मिनिस्टर साहब से पूछ सकता हूं कि उन के पास क्या कोई जवाब यह बताने का है कि ७० मकान बिला कमेटी के इजाजत के क्यों गिराये गये? क्या वह मकानात एक लाख से कम क़ीमत के थे? क्या तीन महीने का नोटिस जो एश्योरेंसेज (assurances) की रू से जरूरी था दिया गया?

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : हमदर्दी से गिराये गये हैं।

लाला अचिन्त राम : पंडित जी ने फ़रमाया है कि क्यों मकान गिराये। मैं आप की बड़ी इज्जत करता हूं। उन आदमियों को आलटरनेटिव एकोमोडेशन (alternative accommodation) दी गई है। जिन आदमियों के मकानात १५ अगस्त, १९५० के बाद के बने थे उन को भी मकान दिया गया है। पहले तजवीज थी कि उन को जगह दी जाय और ५०० रु

रुपयें दिये जावें जिस में वह मकान बना लें। यह मांग आज हमारी चल रही है कि उन को मकानों का मालिक बना दें, हम मिनिस्ट्री से कह रहे हैं, गवर्नमेंट से कह रहे हैं। लेकिन उन को आलटरनेटिव मकान दिया गया बना बनाया। जहां तक मकानों को देने का सवाल है मैं गवर्नमेंट को एक्यूज (accuse) नहीं कर सकता।

अब मैं इस बात की तरफ़ आता हूं कि मैं इस बिल का अस्वागत क्यों करता हूं। उस की ज़रा हिस्ट्री (history) बता दूं। जब यह बिल दो वर्ष पहले पेश हुआ तो डिसप्लेस्ड परसंस (displaced persons) की तरफ़ से यह आम डिमांड थी कि हमें कम्पेन्सेशन (compensation) दिया जाय, चारों तरफ़ से इस बात का मुतालिबा था और इस मुतालिबे को पूरा करने के लिये यह बिल लाया गया। लोगों को बड़ी खुशी हुई कि गवर्नमेंट हमारे क्लेम्स (claims) का वेरीफ़िकेशन (verification) करने जा रही है लेकिन जब वह बिल पेश हुआ तो उस से लोगों को मायूसी हुई। जब यह बिल पेश हुआ था उस वक्त रिफ्यूजीज को आये तीन वर्ष हो गये थे और वह इस इंतज़ार में थे कि कब उन को कम्पेनसेशन मिलता है। जब यह बिल पेश हुआ तो उस में यह प्राविजन (provision) था कि दो वर्ष की मियाद दी जाय। लोगों को अफ़सोस हुआ कि तीन वर्ष तो गुजर गये हैं और दो वर्ष इस में लग जायेंगे। हम ने कहा कि फ़िक्र न की जिये, हम अमेंडमेंट लायेंगे, तरमीम लायेंगे। लिहाज़ा जब यह चीज़ यहां पेश हुई तो मोहन लाल सक्सेना जी यहां थे, मैं ने उन के साथ बात चीत की कि आप दो वर्ष क्यों रखते हैं। एक वर्ष के अन्दर खत्म कर दिया जाय, तीन वर्ष तो यों ही हो गये हैं और अब इन लोगों के पास कुछ नहीं है। मोहन लाल सक्सेना साहब ने बड़ी हमदर्दी दिखाई और कहा कि मुझे एक साल मंजूर है लेकिन दूसरे दिन जब उन्होंने सेक्रेटैरियट से बातचीत की तो उस ने कहा कि दो साल से कम में काम खत्म नहीं हो सकता। इस पर उन्होंने पार्लियामेंट में कहा कि मेरी मजबूरी है लेकिन दो साल में सब खत्म हो जायगा। इस पर श्री जसपत राय कपूर ने अमेंडमेंट पेश किया कि दो साल के बजाय एक साल कर दिया जाय। इस पर काफी बहस हुई और यह तमाम दलायल जो आज अब दिये जा रहे हैं वह उस वक्त दिये गये लेकिन बदक़िस्मती यह हुई कि उस वक्त मोहन लाल सक्सेना साहब ने हमारी इस चीज़ को मंजूर नहीं किया और आखिरकार दो साल की लिमिट पास हो गई। ज्यों ही वह बिल पास हुआ जिस में दो साल की लिमिट थी, उस के पास होते ही A wave of dejection and depression prevailed all over the country। उन के दिल के अन्दर जो आशा थी वह टूट गई और इस का सबूत क्या है? सबूत यह देखिये कि इस बिल में, जो कि पेश किया गया है लिखा है It has, however, not been possible to complete the work within this period। कारण क्या है: "In the beginning, the displaced persons were slow in filing the claims and the period for receipt of claims had to be extended." अब सवाल यह पैदा होता है कि यह क्यों हुआ। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि ज्योंही यह बिल पास हुआ उस का बहुत बुरा असर हुआ। उन्होंने कहा कि हम दो साल क्या करेंगे और नतीजा यह हुआ कि उन्होंने कहा कि क्लेम देना बेकार है। खामख्वाह वक्त जाया करना होगा। यह चीज़ मिनिस्ट्री के सामने आई और मिनिस्टर साहब ने

और हम ने अपीलें कीं डिसप्लेस्ड परसंस से कि आप फ़िक्र न कीजिये, गवर्नमेंट आप को मौक़ा देना चाहती है और अगर आप के वलेम ही नहीं आयेंगे तो गवर्नमेंट क्या करेगी। बहरहाल हमने दो तीन महीने तक बहुत अपील की। लोगों की मायूसी कम हुई और लोगों ने अपने वलेम पेश करना शुरू किया। मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि मेरा ख्याल था कि आप का वेरीफ़िकेशन का काम और जल्दी खत्म हो जायगा लेकिन वह अभी भी बाक़ी है।

जहां मैं आनरेबिल मिनिस्टर साहब की इतनी तारीफ़ करता हूं और इज्जत करता हूं वहां मैं उन से इख्तिलाफ़ भी करता हूं। आप यह दलील फ़रमाते हैं कि यह जो वेरीफ़िकेशन का काम नहीं हो सका उस का कारण यह है कि इतने क्वालीफ़ाइड आफ़िसर नहीं मिल सके। बदक़िस्मती से मैं आप की इस बात को क़बूल नहीं कर सकता। मैं समझता हूं कि मुल्क के अन्दर तीन सौ क्या छः सौ अफ़सर मिलना मुश्किल नहीं है और न था। मैं यह समझ नहीं सकता कि जब रुपया आप के पास है तो अफ़सरों को रखने में क्या कठिनाई है। मैं ने यह भी कहा था कि रुपया गवर्नमेंट खुद न दे बल्कि रिफ्युजीज को जो कम्पेनसेशन देना है उस में से काट लिया जाय। क्या क्लेम्स का वेरीफ़िकेशन इतना मुश्किल है कि जिस के लिये तीन सौ आदमी देश में नहीं मिल सकते। मान लीजिये क्वालीफ़ाइड आदमी नहीं हैं तो इतने आई० ए० ऐस० हैं, डिप्टी कलेक्टर हैं, इन को तीन महीने की ट्रेनिंग दे कर या ६ महीने की ट्रेनिंग दे कर काम हो सकता था। आप का तजुर्बा ज्यादा है और आप को ज्यादा हमदर्दी है लेकिन इस मामले में मुझे क़तई यक़ीन नहीं है कि यह काम जल्दी नहीं हो सकता था। यह काम जल्दी ही हो सकता था। दूसरी बात यह है कि जब आप एक दफ़ा दो साल की लिमिट दे देते हैं तो फिर वह काम दो साल के अन्दर खत्म होने का नहीं, इसी तरह आप ने एक दफ़ा एक साल लिख दिया तो फ़िर एक साल के अन्दर खत्म होने का नहीं है। मुझे इस बात की कोई फ़िक्र नहीं है लेकिन जब आप फरमाते हैं कि चार महीने में खत्म कर लेंगे तो उसी को रखिये। इस दफ़ा कहीं आप ने एक साल पास कर दिये तो फ़िर the same wave of dejection will follow और बजाय इस के कि आप उन को यह भरोसा देने वाले हैं कि Government is doing everything possible उन को मायूसी होगी। हम लोग दरख्वास्त करते थे कि मायूस न हो, वजीर साहब और गवर्नमेंट आप के लिये सब कुछ काम कर रही है और बड़ी मुश्किल से समझा पाये और इस में दो तीन महीने लग गये। अगर आप ने फिर एक साल पास कर दिया तो फिर एक मुश्किल सी बात होगी, एक बड़ा डिजेक्शन हो जायगा। तीन साल उन को पहले आये हुए हो गये, दो साल आपने और ले लिया, एक साल फिर से लिया तो इस तरह छः साल हो जायेंगे। मैं तो समझता हूं कि छः साल बहुत अधिक हैं।

हम को ऐसी बात करनी चाहिये जिस से लोगों को फ़ायदा हो और उन को मायूसी न हो। फ़र्ज कीजिये हमारे मिनिस्टर साहब कह सकते हैं कि यह काम चार महीने, ६ महीने और आठ महीने में खत्म हो जायेगा। मिसाल के तौर पर कि आप को कामयाबी हो जाती है चार महीने बाद या पांच महीने बाद तो आप इस बारे

में आर्डीनेन्स निकाल सकते हैं। प्रेजीडेन्ट साहब आर्डीनेन्स निकाल सकते हैं। कोई ऐसी बड़ी बात नहीं है कि वह हल नहीं हो सकती। अगर आप ने इस को पास कर दिया और आप को इस में कामयाबी हो गई तो इस से उन हजारों लाखों आदमियों को जो कि अरबों और करोड़ों रुपयों की जायदाद छोड़ कर आये हैं बहुत मायूसी होगी। मैं मानता हूं कि हमारी गवर्नमेंट ने इस को हल करने की बड़ी कोशिश की है और कर रही है। मगर मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि हम ऐसा काम क्यों करें जिस से कि शरणार्थी भाईयों को नुक़सान हो। आखिरकार अब तक गवर्नमेंट करती आई है और कर रही है। इस काम के लिये गवर्नमेंट ने डेढ़ करोड़ रुपया खर्च किया और ३० करोड़ के क़रीब लोगों को क़र्ज़ा दिया। आखिकार यह ५५ रुपया फ़ी आदमी पड़ा। इस रुपये को बढ़ाने के लिये उधार लेने में कोई हर्ज नहीं है। मैं आप से फिर कहता हूं कि आप ऐसा काम करें जिस से शरणार्थियों को नुक़सान न हो। अगर आप इस तरह की बात करते हैं तो मैं चाहूंगा कि यह बिल पास हो जाय और मेरा जो अमेन्डमेन्ट है उस को मैं पेश नहीं करूंगा। आप अच्छा काम करें और जो अभागे लोग हमारे इस देश में आ गये हैं उन को आप के कार्यों से फ़ायदा पहुंचे।

(English translation of the above speech)

Lala Achint Ram (Hissar): Sir, I am sorry that I was not present when this amendment was called. I could not decide whether to support this Bill or to oppose it. The fact is that I support this Bill as well as oppose it.

You will ask how? I welcome this Bill because I have deep regard for the hon. Deputy Minister who has moved it. When he first took office he was somewhat inexperienced but the way in which he has worked after assuming office and the diligence and devotion that he has shown in the interests of refugees has led me to believe that all his efforts will be directed towards the good of the refugees. This thing compels me to welcome this Bill.

My opposition to the Bill is due to the fact that sometimes blame is attached to innocent people also. It is reported that in the city of Delhi 70 houses have been demolished, and this has caused great hardship. I was not in favour of the demolition of these houses, but I was present at that time and I can say that the attitude of the Delhi authorities was very sympathetic. I requested the Delhi authorities to accept their demand that they should be provided with accommodation at the same place. They accepted this demand and provided all the 70 families with accommodation at the same place. It is not proper and just to criticise a thing which has been rightly done.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: May I ask the hon. Minister why these 70 houses were demolished without the permission of the Municipal Committee? Was the value of these houses less than Rs. one lakh? Was the three months' notice, necessary according to the assurances, given?

Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Hazaribagh West): They were demolished out of sympathy.

Lala Achint Ram: Panditji asks as to why these houses were demolished. I have great respect for him Those people have been provided with alternative accommodation. Those people, whose houses were built after the 15th August, 1950, have also been given houses. Previously, it was proposed that they should be given plots and Rs. 500 cash with which they should build their own houses. We have been demanding of the Ministry and the Government that they should be declared the owners of these houses. But the Government provided them with alternative ready-made houses. So far as the allotment of houses is concerned I cannot accuse the Government.

Now I will come to the point as to why I oppose this Bill. Let me briefly trace its history. Two years ago when this Bill was first introduced there was a general demand for payment of compensation on the part of refugees. This Bill was introduced to fulfil this demand. People were very glad to note that Government was going to get their claims verified, but they were disappointed to see this Bill. The refugees had already been here for three years when this Bill was introduced. They were expecting to get compensa-

[Lala Achint Ram]

tion but this Bill had a provision that a period of two years should be allowed. The people were dejected that three years had already elapsed and it will take two years more. We assured them that we would get it amended. At the time of its introduction, I asked Shri Mohanlal Saksena, who was the Minister incharge as to why they were fixing a period of two years. I urged him to finish this work in one year, because three years had already passed and the people had not much left with them. Shri Mohanlal Saksena showed much sympathy and said that he accepted the period of one year. But the next day when he had spoken to his Secretariat he said that this work could not be finished in less than two years. He expressed his helplessness in this matter in the Parliament and said that the work would be finished in two years. Thereupon, Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor moved an amendment that the period be reduced from two years to one year. This led to considerable discussion and the arguments that are being given now were also offered at that time but unfortunately Shri Mohanlal Saksena did not accept the amendment and the two years' limit was passed. As soon as the Bill providing for the two years' limit was passed a wave of dejection and depression prevailed all over the country. All the hopes of the people were frustrated. You would ask how. The Bill that has now been moved says, "It has, however, not been possible to complete the work within this period." And the reason given is: "In the beginning, the displaced persons were slow in filing the claims and the period for receipt of claims had to be extended."

Now, the question arises as to why it happened like that. I would say that this Bill had a very bad effect as soon as it was passed. The people wondered as to what they would do in these two years and this led them to believe that it was useless and a waste of time to file claims. This thing was brought to the notice of the Ministry. The hon. Minister and we appealed to the displaced persons not to be anxious and told them that the Government wanted to give them an opportunity and that if no claims were forthcoming Government would not be able to take any action. Anyhow we tried to keep the people pacified for two or three months. When their attitude improved a little they restarted filing their claims. I had an idea that the verification work would be completed much earlier, but it has not been completed even to this date

While I respect and admire the hon. Minister, I beg to differ from him. Unfortunately I cannot accept his plea that the work of verification could not be completed on account of non-availability of qualified officers. I am of the opinion that it is and was not difficult to find three hundred or even six hundred officers in the country. I fail to understand what makes it difficult to appoint these officers, when you have got the funds. I had also suggested that instead of Government paying the money themselves, the amount should be deducted from the compensation to be paid to the refugees. Is this work of verification so difficult that the Government could not find 300 suitable persons in the whole of the country to tackle it?

Supposing that qualified persons are not available, there are the I.A.S. people and the Deputy Collectors, who could be given 3 months' or 6 months' training and then put to work. You are, of course, more experienced and have more sympathy, but I do not at all believe that this work could not be finished earlier. It can be finished earlier. When you fix a limit of two years, it means it is not going to be finished in two years. Similarly if you fix a limit of one year, it would not be finished in one year. I do not worry about that but when you say that you would be able to complete it in four months, you should stick to it. If you pass a limit of one year once more, then "the same wave of dejection" will follow, and inspite of your assurance to them that Government is doing everything possible, they will feel dejected. We could with great difficulty persuade them not to be dejected and we told them that the hon. Minister and the Government were doing everything in their power, and it took us two or three months to pacify them. If you pass a limit of one year once more, it would spread a greater wave of dejection. Three years had already passed, you have already taken two years and now you are proposing to take one year more still. This would amount to a period of six years and I think that in six years, a new generation will be ready.

We should act in a manner which benefits the people and does not cause them disappointment. The hon. Minister can say that the work would be completed in four, six or eight months. Supposing you succeed in completing it in four or five months, you can then issue an ordinance to that effect. The

President can issue such an ordinance. It is not an unsoluble problem. If you pass it and if you succeed, then the lakhs of people who have left property worth crores of rupees, would be much disappointed.

I admit that our Government have done and are doing their utmost to solve this problem. But I want that we should proceed in such a way that no harm comes to the refugees. The Government have spent Rs. 1½ crores on this and have given loans amounting to 30 crores to the people. This comes to about Rs. 55 per head. There is no harm in floating a loan to increase this amount. I would repeat that we should not cause any harm to the refugees. If you proceed in this manner I would welcome the passage of the Bill and I would withdraw my amendment. Your actions and policies should be directed towards the welfare of the unfortunate people who have had to migrate to this country.

पंडित ए० आर० शास्त्री : मैं बहुत थोड़े शब्दों में अपना नम्र निवेदन माननीय मन्त्री जी के सामने रखना चाहता हूं। मेरे हृदय में उन के लिये प्यार की भावना है। मेरे भाई अचित राम जी के दिल में उन के लिये इज्जत है, मेरे दिल में प्यार।

वित्त राज्य-मंत्री (श्री महावीर त्यागी) : प्यारे नहीं .....

Mr. Chairman: The point seems to be very simple—whether it ought to be six months or one year. There seems to be a large body of opinion in favour of continuing this, but the only question is about the period. There does not seem to be much opposition. A lot of other work has to be done. Hon. Members will kindly bear it in mind.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: The matter is very important.

पंडित ए० आर० शास्त्री: मैं ने हिन्दी में कहा। मैं ऐसी नन्ही वस्तु पर बोलने के लिये इसलिये खड़ा हुआ हूं कि मैं भी अपने को उसी तरह विस्थापित समझता हूं जिस तरह हमारे लाखों भाई, जो यहां इस देश में पश्चिमी पंजाब से आये हैं, अपने को समझते हैं। लाला लाजपतराय जी के लोक सेवक मंडल का जिस के अध्यक्ष राजर्षि टंडन जी हैं मैं आजीवन सदस्य हूं और उस का उपाध्यक्ष भी। मुझे यह कहने में प्रसन्नता और गर्व होता है कि इस नन्हें मण्डल के आजीवन सदस्यों में माननीय मंत्री श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री, जो रेलवे मंत्री हैं, पंडित लिंगराज, श्री अचितराम जी, श्री हरिहर नाथ शास्त्री, बलवन्त राय मेहता और श्री पुरुषोत्तम दास टंडन आजीवन सदस्य और अध्यक्ष भी हैं। उस मंडल का हैडक्वार्टर (केन्द्रस्थान) लाहौर में था मगर आज वह वहां पर नहीं है। स्वर्गीय लालाजी की मूर्ति आज वहां नहीं है। आज लालाजी हाल भी नहीं दिखाई देता है। इन सब बातों को देख कर दिल तड़पता है। जब कभी ऐसे प्रश्न हमारे सामने आते हैं तो हमारे मंत्री मंडल को और सरकार को बहुत सहानुभूति के साथ विचार करना चाहिये, जिस सहानुभूति के साथ सूरदास ने कृष्ण के वियोग में तड़पती हुई गोपियों का वर्णन किया। जब तक आंख बन्द कर के, शान्तिपूर्वक और सहृदयता के साथ इन प्रश्नों का विचार नहीं किया जाता तब तक यह हल नहीं हो सकते। जब कभी यह प्रश्न उपस्थित किया जाता है तब कुछ झगड़े बढ़ाने की बात का दोष या विशेषकर उन प्रश्नों को कम्युनल भावों को भड़काने वाला बताया जाता है, तो इस से उलझन पैदा हो जाती है।

श्रीमान् जी, मैं आप के सामने यह नम्र निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि मैं तो नहीं जानता कि जो ७० मकान गिराये गये हैं और जिन का जिक्र यहां पर हमारे मित्र ठाकुर दास भार्गव जी ने बहुत खेद के साथ

[पंडित ऐ० आर० शास्त्री]

मैं किमा उस परिस्थिति से पूरी तरह से परिचित नहीं हूं किन्तु मैं यह नहीं समझ सका कि वह मकान क्यों गिराये गये। यह एक स्वाभाविक बात थी कि जिन ७० परिवारों के आदमी वहां पर एक साथ रहते थे वह एक ही साथ बसना चाहते थे क्योंकि वह एक साथ ही पश्चिमी पंजाब से आये थे। उन परिवारों ने एक साथ ही सब तरह की मुसीबतें झेली थीं। उन्होंने यहां पर एक साथ बसने की भावना का परिचय दिया यह एक अच्छी बात है। उन को एक स्थान से हटा कर दूसरे स्थान में रखने की जो सुविधा दी गई उस में आप को आसानी हुई मगर उन लोगों को कष्ट हुआ। एक घर छोड़ कर वह पहिले ही आये हैं जहां कि उन का सब कुछ चला गया और यहां फिर उन को हटा कर दूसरी जगह रखा जा रहा है और अलग अलग किया जा रहा है। यह तो इस तरह की बात हो गई कि मेरे पांव में जूता काटता है और दर्द मालूम होने पर मैं चीखता हूं। जब मैं चीखता हूं तो आप कहते हैं कि मेरी नींद टूट रही है। आप को वह चीखना कष्टदायक मालूम होता है। आप को सहृदयता की भावना बढ़ानी चाहिये। आप को अपने कानों का इलाज करना चाहिये। हमारे कष्ट की चीख से अगर आप की नींद भंग होती है तो आप को स्लीपिंग डोज (sleeping dose) लेनी चाहिये। इस को खा कर ही इस का इलाज होता है और आप आराम से नींद ले सकते हैं। जो मकान गिराये गये क्या वह उस जगह की सुन्दरता को बिगाड़ रहे थे? अगर वह मकान बग़ैर किसी कारण के गिराये गये हैं तो यह राष्ट्रीय सम्पति का विनाश है। अगर उन के मकान गिराये जाने थे तो उन को मुआवजा दिया जाना चाहिये था और उन का दूसरा जगह पर मकान बनाने के लिये जगह दी जानी चाहिये थी।

पुनर्वास मंत्री (श्री ए० पी० जैन): वहां पर वाटर वर्कस बनाया जा रहा है।

पंडित ऐ० आर० शास्त्री : मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर में इस का स्पष्टीकरण कर दिया है। मैं उन का शुक्रगुजार हूं। उन के दिल में शरणार्थियों के लिये बड़ी हमदर्दी है। अस्तु, अब मुझे कहना है कि अगर वह मकान इस परिस्थिति में गिराये गये तो इस का एक मनोभावना से विचार करना चाहिये। इन प्रश्नों में एक बड़ी साइकलाजिकल (psychological) बात रहती है, मकान गिराना और बनाना और किस स्थान में वह मकान बनाये जाते हैं।

श्री ए० पी० जैन : वह मकान गन्दे और कच्चे थे।

पंडित ए०आर० शास्त्री : मैं इस प्रश्न को मनोवैज्ञानिक ढंग से रखता हूं। उन के मकान गिराये जाते रहे और उन को बनाने की चेष्टा नहीं होती रही। जिस प्रश्न को ले कर मैं यहां खड़ा हुआ उस के सिलसिले में कल एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में मंत्री जी ने यह कहा था कि अभी कोई नीति इस के वास्ते निर्धारित नहीं हुई है। मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि इस बारे में अवश्य कोई नीति निर्धारित हो जानी चाहिये। हमारे जो शरणार्थी भाई आये हुए हैं उन के लिये हमारा कर्तव्य हो जाता है और मानव कर्तव्य हो जाता है कि हम उन की हर प्रकार से मदद करें। वह यहां पर दुःखी हो कर आये हैं और हमारे देश में बसे हैं। वह सब लोग हमारे सगे भाई हैं और हम सब लोगों को उन की

सेवा करनी चाहिये । इस सम्बन्ध में हम लोगों को कोई नीति निर्धारित कर लेनी चाहिये । अगर अधिक समय चाहते हैं तो इस बीच में उचित कार्यवाही उन के लिये कर लेनी चाहिये ।

इस के सम्बन्ध में, मैं विशेष रूप से यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि जो कुछ भी नीति बनाई जाय उस में इस बात का ख्याल किया जाय कि जो कुछ नुक़सान हुआ है उस को मान लिया जाय । उन के साथ न्याय किया जाय और उन लोगों को किसी तरह का कष्ट न हो ।

यही आप का इंटरनेशनल (International) न्याय है कि एक परस्पर समझौते के आधार पर दो देशों की स्वतंत्रता का निर्माण हो और एक देश के स्वतंत्र निवासी वहां के बाशिन्दों को उजाड़ दें, उन को वहां से भगा दें, उन की सम्पत्ति को छीन लें और ऐसे भगाये गये लोग जब दूसरे देश में जायें, तो उन की उस आर्थिक हानि और घाटे की पूर्त्ति उस देश के निवासी करें ? मैं जो यह प्रश्न आप के सामने रख रहा हूं उस का अर्थ यह नहीं है कि मैं विस्थापितों को भारत सरकार द्वारा प्रस्तावित या दी जाने वाली किसी भी सहायता का विरोध कर रहा हूं । गवर्नमेंट आफ़ इंडिया (Government of India) उन को जो कुछ देना चाहती है वह दे दे, मैं उस के विरुद्ध कोई अपनी आवाज नहीं उठा रहा हूं, लेकिन मैं यह नम्र निवेदन किया चाहता हूं कि क्या हमारी यह सरकार उस सरकार से और उस सरकार के अधीन रहने वाली जनता से, वहां के टैक्सपेयर (taxpayer) से, इस बात की कड़ी मांग नहीं करेगी कि जो कुछ उन्होंने छीन लिया है, या रख लिया है, या दबा लिया है, उस का पूरा पूरा मूल्य उन को दे दें । मांग तो यह होनी चाहिये थी, जैसा कि महात्मा गांधी जब नोआखाली में घूम रहे थे तो उन के हृदय में यह भावना थी कि जो जहां का रहने वाला हो, वह वहीं रहे, उस को वहां से खदेड़ा न जाय और ऐसा न हो कि हम इस प्रकार का न्याय बर्तें कि जो ग़रीब हैं उन को खदेड़ दें और जो हमारे यहां रहते हैं उन को धर्म विशेष के कारण उन के प्रति अत्याचार व अनाचार का व्यवहार करें ।

जो लोग यहां बसे हुए हैं आख़िर हमारे ही भाई हैं हम उन को यहां पर ठीक तरह से रहने दें और उन को किसी प्रकार का दुख न होने दें । हमारे जो विस्थापित भाई वहां पाकिस्तान से खदेड़े गये हैं, वह यहां जिस अवस्था में रह रहे हैं वह किसी से छिपी नहीं है । उन का सब कुछ वहीं छीन लिया गया है और हमारा उन का खोया हुआ सब कुछ दिलाने का वायदा अभी पूरा होना बाक़ी है । दो साल वायदा किये हुए बीत गये, लेकिन वायदा अभी तक अधूरा है, उस को पूरा करने के लिये कड़ी और सक्रिय कार्यवाही की आवश्यकता है, तभी उन को इस का विश्वास हो सकेगा कि हम को हमारा खोया हुआ मिलेगा । उन का घाव अभी तक भरा नहीं है, और ज्यों ज्यों समय बीतता जाता है, उस में गांठें पड़ती जाती हैं, घाव का इलाज तो अभी तक नहीं हो पाया है, अब उस के लिये आप ने एक साल और बढ़ाया है, और अगर इसी तरह आप बराबर इस को बढ़ाते रहे और निश्चित तिथि को आगे करते रहे, तो इस का बहुत घातक प्रभाव पड़ने का अंदेशा है । एक तो उन व्यक्तियों का घाव ठंडा पड़ता जायगा दूसरे हुकूमत जिस के संरक्षण में वह लोग रह रहे हैं, उस के दिल पर भी एक तरह की ठंडक आ जायगी और वह समझेगी कि अब उन के लिये कौन पाकिस्तान

[पंडित ए० आर० शास्त्री]

वालों से मांग करे, वह तो हमारी सुनते नहीं, हम क्या करें, लाचारी है, और बेबसी है, उन लोगों में बिल्कुल सहृदयता नहीं है । यह ख्याल अगर हमारे देश की हुकूमत के दिल में पैदा होता है तो बहुत अफ़सोस की बात होगी, इसलिये यह बहुत जरूरी है कि यह मसला जल्द से जल्द हल हो जाना चाहिये । इसलिये मैं आप से निवेदन करूंगा कि इस मांग को तो आप को जल्द से जल्द मान लेना चाहिये और उन के लिये अस्ली मुआविज़ा तो यही है कि जो जहां रहता आया है और जहां का रहने वाला है वह वहीं पर बसाया जाय । आता है याद मुझको वह गुजरा हुआ जमाना, वह झाड़ियां चमन की, वह अपना आशियाना । अस्ली आबाद करना तो उन को यह होगा कि वह अपनी पहले की जगहों पर जहां से उन को निकाल बाहर किया गया है, भारत सरकार फिर से वहीं पर उन को बसाये । और वास्तव में एक सरकार, सरकार कहलाने योग्य तभी हो सकती है जब वह इस मांग को पूरी करे, अस्ल में मांग तो उन की यह होनी चाहिये और पूरा पूरा मुआविज़ा तो उन का यही होगा, यह कोई मुआविज़ा नहीं कि श्री देशमुख और त्यागी साहब के कन्धे पर उस मुआविज़े का चुकाने को भार डाला जाय और वह बेचारे या तो अपने घर से या यहां का सोना चांदी ले कर उन को दें और समझें कि हम ने बड़ा भारी काम कर दिया, लेकिन यह अस्ली मुआविज़ा तो नहीं होगा । वह जो सम्पत्ति वहां वे लोग पीछे पाकिस्तान में छोड़ आये हैं उस का क्या होगा ? ज़रूरत तो यह है कि उस सम्पत्ति का हम पूरा पूरा मूल्य पाकिस्तान से प्राप्त करें ।

श्री त्यागी : हम ने किस का सोना चांदी लिया ?

पंडित ए० आर० शास्त्री : हज़ारों टैक्स पेयर्स का सोना लिया जिन पर वह टैक्स लगाते हैं ।

श्रीमान् जी, मेरा मतलब उस रूपये से है जो आप टैक्स के रूप में वसूल करते हैं, उस टैक्स से श्री त्यागी जी अगर मुआविज़ा चुकाते हैं, तो मैं कहूंगा कि यह ठीक मुआविज़ा नहीं है ।

चौधरी रणबीर सिंह : त्यागी जी त्याग नहीं करते हैं ।

पंडित ए० आर० शास्त्री : मेरा मतलब फ़ायनेंस मिनिस्टरी (Finance Ministry) से है, वह मंत्रणालय जो टैक्स के रूप में धन वसूल करता है और संग्रह करता है । दूसरे के धन से इस तरह मुआविज़े निपटाना कुछ ठीक नहीं जान पड़ता । यह कोई मुआविज़ा देना नहीं है कि दूसरों से ले करके उन में बांट दिया जाय । यह रुपये का जो आप टैक्स के रूप में वसूल करते हैं उस का सच्चा सदुपयोग नहीं होगा । मुआविज़ा तो वास्तव में इस सरकार का कर्त्तव्य है कि उस से प्राप्त करे जिस ने इन को वहां से खदेड़ा है और इन की सारी सम्पत्ति का अपहरण कर लिया है । सरकारी स्तर पर इस को शीघ्र निपटाया जाय । जब मैं यह मांग करता हूं और कहता हूं कि सरकार को इस को दिलवाने में अपनी भरसक शक्ति का प्रयोग करना चाहिये, तो उस का यह अर्थ नहीं है कि मैं कोई नेपोलियन बन कर यह बात कहना चाहता हूं । मैं तो बड़ी विनय के साथ निवेदन करूंगा कि जो अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय नियम व क़ानून इस सम्बन्ध में हैं उन के ज़रिये यह सवाल हल करने का प्रयत्न किया जाय । यह भी कोई न्याय है कि कोई देश एक जाति विशेष के लोगों को अपने देश

से जबर्दस्ती खदेड़ कर भगा दे और उन की सारी सम्पत्ति छीन ले, और उस देश पर इस के लिये ज़ोर न डाला जाय और उस को इस के लिये विवश न किया जाय कि वह यह चीजें उन को वापिस दे दें? या तो उस का पूरा मूल्य मिलना चाहिये। लड़ाइयां हम ने बहुत देखीं, जर्मनी की लड़ाई हुई, जापान की लड़ाई हुई, यह जातियां ही हारीं, उन से होने वाली इस क्षति की पूर्त्ति कराई गयी है। तो क्या पाकिस्तान सरकार को हम विवश नहीं कर सकते कि वह मुआविजे की एक एक पाई अदा करे? अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय विधानों के मातहत पाकिस्तान से यह मांग पूरी करने को कहा जाय, और अगर आज अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय विधानों में यह मांग नहीं है तो इस प्रकार का विधान अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय संगठन में पास होना चाहिये, कि हम ऐसे राष्ट्रों को जो बिल्कुल एक स्वच्छन्दता और निरंकुशता से काम करते हैं और जहां उन का कर्त्तव्य यह है कि प्रजा की रक्षा करें, वह प्रजा को उजाड़ने में लगे हुए हैं बाध्य कर दें। इस को रोकने का यही तरीक़ा हो सकता है कि पाकिस्तान को हम विवश करें कि वह जो क्षति हुई है उस क्षति की पूर्ति में एक एक पाई वह अदा करे और अगर यह मांग करने के लिये सरकार एक साल का समय चाहे तो हम एक साल क्या डेढ़ साल का भी समय देने को तैयार हैं। लेकिन जब यह चीज नहीं है तो मैं आप से निवेदन करूंगा कि आप इस जीते जागते प्रश्न को इस प्रकार एक ठंडा प्रश्न कर देना चाहते हैं। समय बीतने पर लोगों के घाव ठंडे पड़ जायेंगे और आप के हृदय में जो एक चुभन है वह भी ठंडी हो जायगी और नेक काम जो आप करने जा रहे हैं और करने का इरादा रखते हैं और जो नेक काम आप ने अब तक किया है और जिस के लिये हमारे सब मित्रों ने बधाई दी है, उस में इस तरह तिथि को लम्बा करने में और उस को और आगे के लिये टाल देने से बाधा पड़ेगी। इस दृष्टि से मैं लाला अचित राम के संशोधन का हार्दिक समर्थन करता हूं और सरकार से मांग करता हूं कि जल्द से जल्द वह उन सारे क्लेम्स को इकट्ठा ले और उन को सैटिसफ़ाई (satisfy) करने के लिये उन की पूर्त्ति के लिये वह पाकिस्तान सरकार से एक एक पाई वसूल करने का प्रयत्न करें। ऐसा न हो कि वह कोई थोड़ा बहुत मुआविजा अपने घर से या खजाने से दे दें। थोड़ा बहुत कुछ दे दें और कह दें कि भाई क्या करें, इतने में ही संतोष मानो, पाकिस्तान सरकार तो कुछ देती नहीं। मैं यह नहीं जानता कि मेरी यह मांग अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय विधानों की दृष्टि से उचित है या अनुचित, मगर महात्मा गांधी के यह शब्द मुझे याद आते हैं कि जब तक इन उजड़े हुए लोगों को उन के अपने अस्ली घरों में नहीं पहुंचा देंगे, यह शरणार्थि समस्या कभी हल नहीं हो सकती। ऐसा न हो कि समय बीतता जाय और हमारा घाव ठंडा पड़ जाय। मैं हांलाकि, यह एक्सट्रीम (extreme) मांग है, पर हृदय से उस का समर्थक हूं और चाहता हूं कि कम से कम इतना तो अवश्य हो कि जो सम्पत्ति हमारे भाई वहां छोड़ कर आये हैं, उस का बाजार मूल्य आंका जाय और वह हम को मिलनी चाहिये। मैं पाकिस्तान सरकार से भी अपनी सरकार के द्वारा यह निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि इस प्रश्न पर न्यायपूर्वक व्यवहार करें और हमारी इस न्यायोचित मांग को स्वीकार करके मानव मात्र के प्रति न्याय करें। मैं अपने राष्ट्रीय नेता पंडित जवाहरलाल की उस नीति का सर्वथा समर्थक हूं कि हम को सद्भावना और शान्ति से अपने तमाम प्रश्नों को हल करना चाहिये। मगर मैं यह निवेदन ज़रूर करना चाहूंगा कि यह प्रयत्न एक देशीय नहीं हो सकते, अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय

[पंडित ए० आर० शास्त्री]

न्याय में रिसीप्रोकल ट्रीटमेंट (reciprocal treatment) की बात आ जाती है। इस मसले को हल करने में हम बेबसी नहीं प्रकट कर सकते कि क्या करें पाकिस्तान हमारी मांग को स्वीकार नहीं करता, हमें उसे मनवाने के लिये दूसरे जो साधन हैं उन्हें काम में लाने में हिचकिचाना नहीं चाहिये। आज अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय समस्याओं के उलझने के ही कारण कोरिया में लड़ाई हो रही है और दूसरी जगहों में झगड़े होते हैं। इस प्रश्न का निपटारा करने के लिये हमें जितनें भी अंन्तर्राष्ट्रीय साधन प्राप्त हों, उन का प्रयोग करना चाहिये और ऐसा करने में हिचकना नहीं चाहिये, क्योंकि अन्यायी के प्रति अगर हम उदारता और दया का भाव प्रदर्शित करते हैं तो उन लोगों के प्रति, जिन का सब कुछ छीन लिया गया है और जिन के सुख का अपहरण हुआ है, अन्याय होता है।

इसलिये शुद्ध सात्विक न्याय के नाम पर मैं तो प्रार्थना करना चाहूंगा कि इस क्षतिपूर्ति में सरकार पाकिस्तान का ध्यान दिलाये और उस के ऊपर इस बात का बोझा डाले न कि केवल अपने ऊपर बोझा ले ले। यदि कोई अनुचित बात कही हो तो इस दृष्टि से क्षमा करेंगे कि जो चोट है वह मेरे हृदय में गहरी है।

जब तक दहाने जख्म न पैदा करे कोई
मुश्किल कि तुझ से राहे सखुन वा करें कोई।

मैं चोट में बोल रहा हूं, मुंह से नहीं बोल रहा हूं। मैं हृदय के घाव से बोल रहा हूं तथा इसे समझ कर इसी भावना से बोल रहा हूं न कि इस भावना से कि इस में कोई उलझन पड़े।

(English translation of the above speech)

Pandit A. R. Shastri (Azamgarh Distt.—East *cum* Ballia Distt.—West): Sir, I would like to submit a few words to the hon. Minister for whom I have great affection. While my brother Lala Achint Ram has respect, I have affection for him.

The Minister of State for Finance (Shri Tyagi): Not affectionate.....

Mr. Chairman: The point seems to be very simple—whether it ought to be six months or one year. There seems to be a large body of opinion in favour of continuing this, but the only question is about the period. There does not seem to be much opposition. A lot of other work has to be done. Hon. Members will kindly bear it in mind.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: The matter is very important.

Pandit A. R. Shastri: That I said in Hindi. I have risen to speak on this simple subject because like the lacs of refugees coming from the West Punjab I also consider myself to be a displaced person. I am a life member as also the Vice-President of the Servants of the People Society founded by the late Lala Lajpat Rai. Rajrishi Tandanji is the President. I feel a sense of pleasure and pride in saying that among the life-members of this society are also my hon. friends Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, the Railway Minister, Pandit Lingaraj, Lala Achint Ram, Shri Harihar Nath Shastri, Shri Balwant Rai Mehta and Shri Purushottam Das Tandan who, as I said, is also the President. Formerly the headquarters of the said society were at Lahore but now they are not. The late Lalaji's statue also is not there. We do not find there Lalaji Hall either. All these things pinch the heart. When such issues are before us, it becomes the duty of the Cabinet as also of the Government to consider them with all the sympathy they deserve—the kind of sympathy with which the blind poet Surdas described the agony of the *Gopis* in separation of Lord Krishna. Unless such problems are considered with utter cool-mindedness and extreme sympathy, they are not likely to be solved. The difficulty is that whenever any question of this type is brought forth it is hushed up on the pretext that it encourages communal mentality. This makes confusion worse confounded.

Although, Sir, I am not well acquainted with the circumstances that led to seventy houses being demolished and about which Shri Thakur Das Bhargava expressed extreme sorrow, I do not quite understand why these houses were demolished. It was but natural that these seventy families wanted to settle in close vicinity. The reason is not very difficult to understand. They have suffered all sort of troubles together and now they want to resettle together. It is, no doubt, a very good idea. It may be that their rehabilitation at some other place suits your convenience but not theirs. They, on the other hand, experience much inconvenience on this account. They have already once left behind their homes and lost their all. Under such circumstances will it not be undesirable to remove them again from one place to another? It is like your complaining of your sleep being disturbed when I groan with pain on account of my shoe pinching me. You do not like to hear the sufferers moan. You should have some sympathy with them. If your ears do not like the cries of the sufferers, then I would advise you to have them treated. The sooner it is done, the better. If your sleep is disturbed on account of the cries of the sufferers you would do well to take some sort of sleeping dose so that you may enjoy sound sleep. Were the demolished houses marring in any way the beauty of that locality? If the reason for their demolition was other than this, it is clear beyond doubt that so much public money has gone waste. If their houses were to be demolished at all, they ought to have been paid due compensation for that and provided with alternative accommodation elsewhere.

Shri A. P. Jain: Water-works is being constructed at that site.

Pandit A. R. Shastri: I am grateful to the hon. Minister for having clarified the position. I am glad to learn that he has sympathy for the displaced persons. Now I would say that if such were the circumstances in which these houses had to be demolished then certain psychological factors should have been taken into consideration. These things have a great psychological bearing—I mean the conditions in which houses are demolished or constructed.

Shri A. P. Jain: Those were filthy and *kuccha* houses.

Pandit A. R. Shastri: I am only taking the psychological aspect of the question. Their houses were demolished without providing for alternative accommodation. While replying to a question in regard to this subject yesterday, the hon. Minister had said that no definite policy was adopted so far in that connection. I say some policy must be adopted. It is our duty, nay human duty, towards these distressed fellows who having suffered untold miseries at their homes and have taken shelter in this country, that we extend to them every possible help. They all are like our brothers and we should do every service to them. Let there be some definite policy in this respect. If this requires sufficient time, then we could take some interim measures so as to give them relief for the time being. As regards the policy, while formulating it due consideration should be given to the losses they have suffered in Pakistan. We should do every justice to them and see that they are not put to any further trouble.

Is this your international justice that when two countries emerge as independent countries on the basis of a mutual agreement, then one independent country drives away a part of its population from its territory and also seizes their properties. The displaced persons seek asylum in the other independent country. Now is it in accordance with the international laws that the losses suffered by these displaced persons in one country should be made good by the people of the other country? I do not for a moment mean to oppose any aid being given or proposed to be given to the displaced persons by the Government of India. Let the Government give them what they want; I am not taking exception to that. What I want to ask is whether our Government would not claim from the other country or the tax payers thereof the compensation for the losses that the displaced persons coming from there have had to suffer. It is in the fitness of things that such a claim is made. When Mahatma Gandhi toured Noakhali he sincerely felt that everybody should be allowed to reside where he had originally been living and that he should not be compelled in any case to leave his native land. He was afraid lest we should discard the poor and treat a section of our population cruelly and unfairly simply because of their religion. After all they are our brothers and, therefore, we should see that they do not suffer on any account. The plight of the displaced persons from Pakistan is not unknown to us. We all know in what miserable conditions they are living at present. They have been deprived of all their belongings in Pakistan. It remains to be seen now whether or not the pledge that we made about

[Pandit A. R. Shastri]

two years back is honoured. That pledge has not yet been fulfilled. It calls for strict and solid action being taken. Only in that case can they believe that they would get compensation for their heavy losses. Their wounds are still unhealed and the passage of time cannot but make them still more deep. Now you are extending the period by one more year. If time is allowed to be extended in this way, it is likely to do more harm than good. If this issue is put in cold storage, the Government will cease to feel its responsibility towards these displaced persons considering that it would be vain to claim any compensation from Pakistan, she having turned a deaf ear to what it says. In that case things will worsen. It is, therefore, of utmost urgency that we solve this problem before long. I would submit that the demand for the payment of compensation should immediately be acceded to. Real compensation would be that all the displaced persons are rehabilitated in their own homes. In this connection I quote an Urdu couplet which says:

"I am reminded of those golden days of the past,

Of those bushes in the garden and of my lovely abode."

The real rehabilitation, therefore, would be to rehabilitate them in their homes from where they have been uprooted. The Government of India can deserve to be a Government worth the name only when it succeeds in doing so. The due compensation would be nothing short of this. It is not the way that Shri Deshmukh or Shri Tyagi are burdened with the responsibility of paying compensation to the displaced persons and they having collected gold and silver from this country make such payments. This should not lead them to think that they have turned the corner, for this would not be a real compensation. The point is that something should be done with respect to the properties left behind by the displaced persons in Pakistan. The need of the hour is that we make Pakistan pay us compensation in full for the properties left behind in Pakistan.

Shri Tyagi: But whose gold and silver have we taken?

Pandit A. R. Shastri: You have taken gold and silver from thousands of taxpayers in this country in the form of taxes. If the compensation is sought to be paid from the monies so realised in the form of taxes, then I would say this is not the proper way of giving compensation.

Ch. Ranbir Singh (Rohtak): Tyagiji does not practise *tyag*.

Pandit A. R. Shastri: I was referring to the Finance Ministry. It is that Ministry which realises taxes and if it uses that money for the purpose of giving compensation, I think it would not be a proper thing. Is it proper that for the purpose of giving compensation to some persons you realise money from others? It would not amount to the proper utilisation of the money collected by taxation. The Government, on the contrary, should realise compensation from the Government of that country from which these unfortunate persons have been driven out after having been deprived of all their properties and other belongings. This question should be considered at Governmental level. When I demand of the Government to do its best to see that full compensation is paid by the other Government, I do not say so in a Napoleanic vein. My humble suggestion is that this issue be sought to be tackled in accordance with the provisions of the international law. Is it justice that people of one country having been deprived of their properties etc., are driven out of the country and that country is not even asked to restore those properties or to give compensation to the displaced persons? We know that even in wars—wars with Germany and wars with Japan etc.—the defeated countries were made to pay war reparations. When such things can happen in wars why can we not compel the Pakistan Government in this case to repay every pie of our loss? Let us ask Pakistan to give compensation under the international law and usage. In case there be no such international law, one should be enacted by the international organisation by which freedom and security be guaranteed to those people whose governments are out to drive them out of the countries. The only way to save people from disaster and ruination is to ask the Pakistan Government to give full compensation. If Pakistan asks for some time for this purpose, we do not mind granting them one year or say one and a half years even. I beg of you not to delay action in this connection for this would only cause people's enthusiasm to wane. What is more, with the passage of time, the Government, too, would find itself less inclined to take any prompt action. The extension of time, therefore, would hamper the progress that you have been achieving so far and for which

you have been receiving congratulations from all quarters. In view of these things I extend my full support to the amendment moved by Lala Achint Ram and request the Government to consolidate all the claims at an early date and take prompt action to have full payment made by the Pakistan Government against these claims. Let not the Government seek to satisfy the claimants by paying a little compensation from its own exchequer and say that that is all it can do. Let the Government not ask the displaced persons to be contented with what little they are in a position to give on the pretext that Pakistan Government is not willing to pay a single penny towards the compensation. I do not know whether or not my demand is in accordance with international practice and usage, but I do recollect Mahatma Gandhi's words that unless these displaced persons were resettled in their old homes, the rehabilitation problem would not be solved. I am afraid lest our enthusiasm should cool down with the passage of time. Although this demand is an extreme one, I fully support it and wish that the properties left behind by our brethren in Pakistan must be evaluated and payments made accordingly. I would also take this opportunity of submitting to the Pakistan Government through our Government, that they should give due consideration to this issue and accede to our most justifiable demand thereby doing justice to humanity. I am a whole-hearted supporter of our national leader Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's policy which says that we should seek to solve all the issues by sincere and peaceful means. I would, however, suggest that such issues cannot be treated as ordinary ones. Then the international justice provides for reciprocal treatment. We are not to show our helplessness in solving this problem simply because Pakistan does not seem to accede to our demand. Let us not hesitate in employing other means available to us for making Pakistan accede to our demand. It is the international statements which are the cause of the war in Korea and elsewhere. Let us, therefore, not hesitate to adopt all available international sources in order to get this matter settled. Let us not forget that if we show any signs of weakness and generosity in our treatment with those who are unjust it would prove fatal to those who have been deprived of everything. Therefore, I would appeal to the Government in the name of justice and fair-play to draw Pakistan Government's attention to this question of compensation. Let our Government also make Pakistan share the burden of compensation.

In the end, I beg to be excused for saying anything improper, if at all I have done so. I hope you would not mind it, considering that I have a deep wound on my heart. I am reminded of a couplet:

> "Unless it be through the mouth of a wound it is difficult to communicate with you."

In the same way I am not speaking from my mouth—it is the sore on my heart that is giving expression to its anguish. I have no desire whatsoever to create difficulties.

श्रीमती सुचेता कृपलानी : मेरे सामने भी वही समस्या है जो लाला अचित राम जी ने कही है । यह जो ऐमेन्डमेन्ट बिल हमारे सामने पेश है उस बिल की मैं ताईद भी करती हूं और विरोध भी ।

मुझे इस रिफ़्यूजीज़ के मामले से कुछ वाकफ़ियत है खास कर दिल्ली के रिफ़्यूजीज़ के मामले से । मुझे मालूम है कि हमारे जो भाई आज रिफ़्यूजी के नाम से कहे जाते हैं उन का इस नाम से बहुत अपमान होता है । वह प्रसन्न नहीं हैं इस से ।

दूसरी बात यह है कि उन को सरकार से जो मदद मिलती है वह वह लेते ज़रूर हैं क्योंकि वह मजबूर हैं मगर वह लेने में अपना अपमान समझते हैं । हमारे जितने रिफ़्यूजी भाई हैं उन को ज़्यादा पसन्द यह होगा कि वह जो जायदाद छोड़ कर आये हैं उस के एवज में उन को कम्पेन्सेशन (compensation) मिल जाय और वह उस हक के पैसे से अपने को बसा लें । आज वह अपना हक मांग कर लेते हैं । इसलिये शुरू से जब से सन् १९४७ में रिफ़्यूजीज़ का मामला हुआ है हम ने बार बार आप लोगों का ध्यान इस की ओर दिलाया है कि आप मेहरबानी कर के उन को रिलीफ़ दीजिये, लेकिन उन

[श्रीमती सुचेता कृपलानी]

को रिलीफ़ देने के पहले उन का जो हक़ है, वह जो जायदाद पाकिस्तान में छोड़ कर आये हैं, उस का निपटारा कीजिये। हम जानते हैं कि आप के सामने दिक्कतें हैं, मगर हमें नहीं मालूम कि आप ने इस मामले में इतनी देर क्यों लगाई। यह तो इस से बहुत पहले हल हो जाना चाहिये था। हमेशा हमारे मंत्री साहब मांगते हैं कि हमें और ज्यादा वक्त दिया जाय, वह तो हमें देना ही पड़ेगा। लेकिन जब हमारे मंत्री साहब यह बात कहते हैं कि वह समझते हैं कि चार महीने में वह मामला हल हो सकता है तो जो ऐमेन्डमेन्ट लाला अचिंत राम जी का है कि इस को ६ महीने के अन्दर खत्म कर दिया जाय, तो उस को मंजूर न कर के आप एक साल क्यों चाहते हैं? अगर आप एक साल का मौक़ा चाहते हैं तो आप अपने मोहकमे को मौक़ा देते हैं खिलाई करने का। अगर चार महीने के अन्दर काम हो सकता है तो चार महीने के अन्दर होना चाहिये क्योंकि रिफ़्यूजी बेचारे बहुत बेज़ार बैठे हुए हैं। अगर बातें पूरी तरह से मैं आप को बताऊं तो कई दिन लगें, इसलिये मैं आप को दो चार क़िस्से बताती हूं ज्यादा नहीं। क्योंकि हमारे मित्र गुरुमुख सिंह साहब मुसाफ़िर, ठाकुर दास जी और लाला अचित राम जी इत्यादि भी इस मामले से इतने ही वाक़िफ़ हैं जितनी मैं। जो क़िस्सा ठाकुर दास जी ने बताया वह क़िस्सा बिल्कुल सच्चा है। हम ने साथ साथ इस कमेटी में काम किया है, दिल्ली शहर में रिफ़्यूजियों के साथ क्या बर्ताव हो रहा है यह सब जानते हैं। मैं अदब से कहना चाहती हूं कि हमारे मिनिस्टर साहब ने बहुत कुछ काम किया है और बहुत कुछ कर रहे हैं। लेकिन बड़े जुल्म रिफ़्यूजीज के ऊपर हो रहे हैं। यह ठीक है कि परिस्थिति ऐसी है जिस में यह सब होता है लेकिन अगर गवर्नमेंट चाहे तो परिस्थिति सुलझाई जा सकती है।

मैं आप को उदाहरण देती हूं कि कई महीने पहले मैं राजेन्द्र नगर गई। एक आदमी ने कहा कि वह पचास हज़ार रुपये की जायदाद छोड़ कर आया है, उस का क्लेम तीस हज़ार का मंजूर हुआ है। मगर मैं ने जा कर देखा कि उस की हालत यह है कि उस के कैन्सर (cancer) हो रहा है और वह चारपाई पर पड़ा हुआ है। उस की औरत भी बीमार है, पांच बच्चे हैं, कोई काम करने वाला नहीं है। उस के पास कोई पैसा नहीं है। जिस मकान में पड़ा हुआ है उस के किराये के वास्ते सरकार का नोटिस आता है। मैं ने जा कर अपने जेब से थोड़ा पैसा दिया, और जब इस बारे में उस से पूछा तो वह रो पड़ा। उस ने कहा मुझे और कुछ नहीं चाहिये। मेरा तीस हज़ार का क्लेम मंजूर हुआ है, उस के बजाय मुझे आज पांच हज़ार दे दो, जिस में कम से कम मैं जिन्दा तो रह सकूं। उस के कुछ दिन बाद मैं ने सुना कि वह आदमी पैसे की कमी के कारण मर गया। इस तरह का यह एक क़िस्सा नहीं है, कई क़िस्से हैं। आज कल औरतें हमारे पास आती हैं। वह बेचारी परेशान हैं, वह कहती हैं कि तुम हमारे क्लेम का जो पैसा चाहो दे दो ताकि हम कम से कम जिन्दा तो रह सकें जब तक सरकार का फ़ैसला हो। तो यह मुसीबत है जो आप को समझनी चाहिये। एक तरफ़ रिलीफ़ का काम घटाया जा रहा है। ठीक बात है। हमारी सरकार कहती है हम ने पांच साल से लोगों को रिलीफ़ दिया, अब रिलीफ़ का काम खत्म होना चाहिये। लेकिन साथ ही साथ आप इस बात को देखिये कि अब भी लोगों की क्या हालत है। मैं दिल्ली शहर के अपने

अनुभव की बातें कहूंगी, जो चीज मैं ने आंखों से देखी वह कहूंगी। दिल्ली में तेहाड़ एक जगह है। वहां बसती नबी करीम एक जगह है। वहां जा कर देखिये कि किस हालत में वहां लोग बैठे हुए हैं। कुछ दिन पहले इस बसती नबी करीम में एक मशहूर क़िस्सा हुआ। मैं ने देखा कि एक कुएं में दो परिवार बैठे हुए थे, कैसे बैठे हुए थे? एक लकड़ी डाल कर एक फ़ैमिली बैठी हुई थी उस के ऊपर दूसरा पटरा डाल कर दूसरी फ़ैमिली बैठी हुई थी। मंत्री साहब जानते हैं कि ऐसी बातें हो रही थीं। बहर-हाल उन्होंने उन फ़ैमिलीज़ को विनय नगर में जगह दे दी। पहाड़गंज की क्या हालत है? वहां एक मस्जिद है उस मस्जिद में क़रीब दो हजार लोग बैठे हुए हैं, उन लोगों के जो कमरे हैं वहां सूरज तो कभी जाता ही नहीं। वहां लोग बैठे हुए हैं। उन को कोई रिहैबिलिटेशन की मदद नहीं दी गई क्योंकि वह लोग कैम्प में नहीं आये। यह आयरनी आफ़ फ़ेट (irony of fate) है कि जो रिफ़्यूजी, जिन में आत्मसम्मान कम था, जो लोग कैम्प में जा कर बैठ गये उन को आप ने पहले ठीक जगह पर बैठा दिया। लेकिन जिन में आत्मसम्मान था, जो सरकारी मदद नहीं चाहते थे उन को आप ने रिहैबिलिटेशन के द्वारा मदद नहीं दी है। जो लोग आज मस्जिद में जा कर बैठे हुए हैं उन से पूछिये कितनी जायदाद छोड़ आये हैं। कितने के उन के क्लेम्स हैं। अगर उन के मरने के पहले कुछ रुपया मिल जाय तो वह जिन्दा रह सकें। अगर ऐसा न हुआ तो वह तो क्लेम्स का फ़ैसला होने के पहले ही मर जायेंगे। इसलिये मुझे यह कहना है कि यह चीज आप जल्द कीजिये। जितनी ही आप देरी करेंगे उतना मामला खत्म होता जायेगा। एक तरफ़ रिफ़्यूजी मरते जायेंगे दूसरी तरफ़ इवैक्वी प्रापर्टी (Evacuee property) बिगड़ती जायेगी। इस विषय में मैं एक दो बातें कहना चाहती हूं। जो बातें मुसाफ़िर साहब ने कहीं, चैटर्जी ने कहीं, इवैक्वी प्रापर्टी का पूल (pool) दिनों दिन कम होता जा रहा है मैं अथारिटी (authority) के साथ कह सकती हूं, मेरी इस विषय में जस्टिस अछरू राम जी के साथ बात हुई। उन्होंने मुझे एक उदाहरण दिया। जो मुसलमान सौराष्ट्र चले गये हैं उन्होंने बड़े बड़े मकान बनाये हैं, वह मकान आज पांच साल से वैसे ही पड़े हुए हैं और खराब होते जा रहे हैं। पता नहीं उन की वैल्यू अब क्या हो गई है? इस तरह से जो पूल है वह घटता जा रहा है। बहुत से मुसलमान भाई वापस आ रहे हैं। उन को भी उन के मकान वापस मिलेंगे इस तरह पूल दिनों दिन कम होता जा रहा है। इसलिये इस में जल्दी करने की जरूरत है। मैं जानती हूं कि आप के सामने दिक्कतें हैं। क्लेम्स आफिसर्स (claims officers) की दिक्कतें अचित राम जी ने बतायीं। इस विषय में मैं भी कुछ वाकफ़ियत रखती हूं क्योंकि मैं भी सिलेकशन कमेटी की मेम्बर बनाई गई थी। अगर आप शुरू में बता देते कि इतने आदमी चाहियें तो शुरू में हम दे देते। अब बताया गया कि १०० चाहियें, अब बताया गया कि पचास चाहियें, अगर इस तरह.....

श्री ए० पी० जैन: मैं एक सवाल पूछना चाहता हूं आप से कि जिन जिन की आप ने रिकमेन्डेशन की और जो रिकमेन्डेशन भेजी उन अफ़सरों की काबलियत के बारे में आप की क्या राय है?

श्रीमती सुचेता कृपलानी: शुरू में हमारे पास जो ऐप्लीकेशन्स (applications)

आई थीं उन में अच्छे लोग आये थे। अगर उस वक्त बता देते तो हम अच्छे आदमी आप को देते। वह रिहैबिलिटेट हो गये और चले गये। ढेढ़ साल हो गये। अब ज़रूर अच्छे आदमी नहीं हैं जिन की ऐप्लीकेशन्स आई हों। अगर शुरू में आप ने अपना इरादा पक्का कर लिया होता कि कितनी ज़रूरत है तो आप को अच्छे आदमी मिल जाते। दूसरी बात यह है कि हम लोग रिकमेन्डेशन करते हैं तो छः छः महीने तक आप लोग ऐप्वान्टमेन्ट (appointment) नहीं करते.....

श्री ए० पी० जैन: इस बात से तो मैं आप की इन्कार करता हूं। जब आप की रिकमेन्डेशनस आईं तो उस के बाद एक हफ़्ते के अन्दर हर एक को ऐप्वाइन्ट कर दिया।

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. I would like the practice to develop where hon. Members address each other only in the third person.

श्रीमती सुचेता कृपलानी: मैं बहुत अदब से आप से कहती हूं कि आप मंत्री महोदय से कह दीजिये कि वह देखेंगे तो मालूम हो जायेगा कि अपाइंटमेंट्स जितनी तेज़ी से वह समझते हैं की गई हैं, नहीं की गई हैं। अपाइंटमेंट करने के बाद पोस्टिंग (posting) भी नहीं हुई है। महीनों बीत गये हैं, सिलैक्टेड परसन्स अपाइंट नहीं हुए हैं। मैं खुश होऊंगी अगर मैं ग़लत होऊं। लेकिन मैं समझती हूं कि वह ग़लत हैं, वह ज़रा तहक़ीक़ात करें। इस मामले में गवर्नमेंट की तरफ़ से अरजेंसी (urgency) नहीं है, इस से नुक़सान गवर्नमेंट को ही होता है। लगों के दिल में यह वहम बढ़ता जा रहा है कि गवर्नमेंट हम को कुछ देगी नहीं। हम लोगों से, जो कि रिफ़्यूजीज़ के अन्दर काम करते हैं, वह लोग मिलते हैं और पूछते हैं कि कि हम को क्या दिया जायगा, यह बताओ। लेकिन हम जवाब नहीं दे सकते। हम कहते हैं कि रुपये में शायद एक आना मिल जाय। ठाकुर दास जी ने भी पूछा कि उन को प्रापर्टी का कितना परसेंट मिलेगा। जो प्रापर्टी वह लोग वहां पर छोड़ आये हैं और यहां जो प्रापर्टी इवैक्वी पूल की है वह कितनी है, यह बड़ा अहम सवाल है, यह जल्दी मालूम होना चाहिये, क्योंकि लोगों की उम्मीदें बढ़ गई हैं। अगर शुरू में ही उन को मालूम हो जाता कि तुम को कुछ नहीं मिलेगा तो ठीक था। वह सब्र करके बैठ रहते। लेकिन आज वह उम्मीद बढ़ी हुई है। तो जितना जल्दी उन को यह मिल जाय उतना अच्छा हो। यह सरकार के फ़ायदे की बात है कि वह उन को बताये कि कितना उन को देगी। इस से लोग अन्दाज़ा बांध लेंगे कि हम को कितना मिलेगा और कितने में हम काम कर सकेंगे। जैसा मैं ने कहा रिलीफ़ फ़ैसीलिटीज़ (Relief Facilities) आप घटाते जा रहे हैं और तिजारत की हालत मुल्क में ऐसी है कि लोग तकलीफ़ में पड़ गये हैं। इसलिये इस वक्त अगर उन को कुछ मिल जाये तो वह बेचारे यह मुसीबत के वक्त से पार हो जायेंगे और रिहैबीलिटेट हो जायेंगे।

दो बातें और मुझे छोटी छोटी कहनी हैं। एक बात यह है कि बहुत सी औरतें हैं, वे बैवा हैं, अनपढ़ हैं, उन्होंने आज तक क्लेम्स नहीं भर पाये। इसलिये उन के लिये मैं यह दरख्वास्त करूंगी कि मिनिस्टर साहब कोई तरीक़ा निकालें जिस से उन से दरख्वास्तें ली जायं।

एक बात और है कि यह बिल आज तक बंगाल में एक्सटेंडेड (extended) नहीं है। बंगाल के लिये भी यह बड़ा सवाल है। गो मैं जानती हूं कि सैंट्रल गवर्नमेंट सब तरफ़ पूरा ध्यान देने की कोशिश करती है, लेकिन मेरा अपना तजुर्बा यह है कि बंगाल में यह मामला जिस तरह से चल रहा है उस से यह मालूम होता है कि वहां उतना ध्यान नहीं दिया जा रहा है जिस से कि सवाल पूरी तरह हल हो सके। इसलिये मैं चाहती हूं कि यह बिल बंगाल पर भी एक्सटेंड हो जाय।

इतने ही शब्द कहकर मैं बिल को सपोर्ट करती हूं और अचिंत राम जी के अमेंडमेंट को सपोर्ट करती हूं।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani (New Delhi): Sir, I too feel faced with the same problem that has confronted Lala Achint Ram. I both support and oppose this amending measure now before the House.

I claim to have some knowledge of the refugee problem—in particular that of Delhi. I am aware that the word 'refugee' is much insulting to our brethren in question. They do not feel quite happy about it.

Again, it is a fact that they are receiving Government aid, but they do so out of sheer helplessness and not infrequently a sense of humiliation overtakes them. They prefer to receive some compensation for the properties left behind them in Pakistan and utilise the rightful money so received towards their rehabilitation. They are demanding their right but not without a sense of humiliation. That is why we have been stressing from the very beginning—since this problem of refugees first confronted us in 1947—to give them early relief and before giving them that relief you should settle the issue of their properties left behind in Pakistan which is their rightful claim. We are aware that some difficulties exist in this behalf; still we see no justification for the delay on Government part. The issue should have been settled much earlier. The hon. Minister has always been pleading for more and more time. We have no other alternative but to accede to that request—for this is the primary object behind the introduction of this Bill. I do not see why the hon. Minister is reluctant to accept Lala Achint Ram's amendment to settle the issue within six months when he himself thinks that it can be settled in four months. Why does then he want to fix it at one year in this Bill? It will result in nothing but more opportunities to the staff of your Ministry for making money. If you think the task can be accomplished within four months then you should not ask for more time. It should be done within that period, for the refugees are in great distress. It will take me several days to unfold the full story to you. I will content myself with two or three instances only. My hon. friends Giani G. S. Musafir, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava and Lala Achint Ram know as much of this problem as I can claim to know. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava has narrated quite a true story. We have worked together on the Committee and we know quite well what sort of treatment the refugees are receiving in Delhi. I admit that the hon. Minister has done and is still doing quite a lot for the welfare of the refugees. It is however true that the refugees are being subjected to great hardships. Conditions are no doubt such in which such things invariably happen; but it cannot be denied that, should the Government so desire, an improvement can certainly be brought about.

I want to tell you about an incident. Many months before I happened to visit Rajender Nagar. A man told me that he had left behind property worth Rs. 50,000 whereas his claim had been accepted for Rs. 30,000 only. He was by no means a capitalist. I found him in a deplorable condition. He was suffering from cancer and was confined to bed. His wife was also ill. They had five children with no other earning member in the whole family. They had no money. As if to provide a climax, a notice from the Government was served on him in connection with the house rent occupied by him. I gave him some money out of my own pocket. On my making enquiries the man burst into tears. He told me that he wanted only this much and nothing more that he be paid for the time being only Rs. 5,000 for a claim of Rs. 30,000 sanctioned in his case so that he could live. A few days after I was told that the man died for want of money. There are many stories like that. Many women come to us these days. They are much worried. They want to take any sum you

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may decide in respect of their claims so that they may keep their body and soul together till a time the Government may decide finally. You should understand this hardship. On the one hand you are limiting the scope of relief measures. The Government's stand is that they have been providing relief for the last five years and they consider it time now to stop it. But that does not mean that you should turn your back on the conditions in which our people are actually living.. I will say nothing that is not based on my own experience. There is a place known as Tehar in Delhi. It has a colony by the name Basti Nabi Karim. You have just to go and see the conditions of people yourself. A few days back an event of importance happened in Basti Nabi Karim. I found two families passing their days in a well. You may ask, 'how could it be?' Well, they had thrown two planks of wood across the well, each family occupying one such plank. The hon. Minister had knowledge of such things. Anyway the families in question have been given accommodation in Vinay Nagar. Now what about the conditions in Paharganj? There is a mosque in that locality. No less than 2,000 persons are occupying that place at present. The sun never finds its way into the rooms. The people there have not been given any aid by way of rehabilitation on the ground that they had not shifted to the Camp. It is an irony of fate that persons with comparatively less sense of self-respect, who chose to avail themselves of the relief benefits offered in the camp, have been provided first by you. But those with a sense of self-respect, who did not want to avail of any Government aid, have not been helped by you towards their rehabilitation. You should just ask the persons squatting in the mosque how much property they had left behind. Just have a look at the claims filed by them. An early aid may enable them to keep themselves alive. Should that not be forthcoming, it is feared they will die before the settlement of their claims. I, therefore, plead that the matter should be expedited. The more you delay this matter, greater and greater shall become the distress of our people. While refugees shall face death and distress on one hand, the evacuee property will fritter away on the other. I have to make one or two observations in this regard. I can vouchsafe on authority that the view expressed by Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir and Shri Chatterjee regarding the continuously decreasing pool of evacuee property is quite correct. I had a talk with Justice Achhru Ram in this connection. He cited an instance. He told me that the Muslims in Saurashtra had left behind huge mansions. Those buildings have been lying unoccupied for the last five years. Their condition has steadily been deteriorating and none knows of their present value. The evacuee property pool is thus gradually decreasing. Many Muslims are daily returning to India and they will get back their houses. We should take note of the diminishing pool and speed up a decision on the issue. In saying that I am not oblivious of the difficulties facing you. Lala Achint Ram has described the various difficulties which our Claims Officers are experiencing. As a member of the Selection Committee, I too possess information on this point. Had you just given us an idea of the requirements of staff for this work in the very beginning, we would have made provisions for that. At one time you ask for 100 persons, another time you come with a demand for fifty. If.....

Shri A. P. Jain: I have one question to put to the hon. Member. What is her opinion about the efficiency or otherwise of the officers recommended by the Committee?

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: The applications we received for the first time included many competent candidates. Had you intimated us at that time we would have found it possible to recruit competent persons for you. Those people have now been rehabilitated and their services are no longer available. It is now a year and a half that this happened. Maybe that the applications received now are not of such competent persons. Had you taken a firm decision regarding the requirements in this respect, you would have got competent persons. Another fact is that you do not recruit people even six months after their names have been recommended.....

Shri A. P. Jain: I deny that. People were appointed within a week after the receipt of the recommendations.

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. I would like the practice to develop where hon. Members address each other only in the third person.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: I respectfully point out that the appointments in question were not made with so much speed as the hon. Minister thinks. Even after appointments their postings have not been effected. Although several months are past now,

yet the selected persons have not been appointed. I wish I were wrong. But I know he is wrong. Let him investigate the matter. No sense of urgency has been displayed by the Government in this respect. It is causing harm to them. The suspicion in the minds of people is gaining ground that Government intend to give them nothing. We, who move amongst the refugees, are generally confronted with the question regarding the Government's intentions in this respect. We have, however, no answer to give. Generally we tell them that they may get an anna in the rupee. Pandit Thakur Das has also enquired about the percentage of property they are to get. It is important to know the total value of property left behind by the refugees and the total pool value of the evacuee property against which their claims are to be settled. It is so because the people's hopes have been greatly aroused. It was alright had they been disillusioned in the very beginning. Had all hopes of getting anything been shattered then the people would have reconciled themselves to fate. But today their hope is much high. The sooner they receive something, the better will it be. It is in the interests of the Government themselves to tell them as to how much they intend to give them. It shall give the people an idea as to how much they stand a chance to receive and whether or not it shall be sufficient for their needs. I have already stated that you are gradually restricting the scope of relief measures but the prevailing business conditions have created so many hardships for the people. Giving them some compensation at this juncture, therefore, will enable them to pull on in these hard times and will help them towards rehabilitation.

I have to refer to two more minor issues. One is that an appreciable number of women are widows and being illiterate have not been able to file their claims. I request the hon. Minister to devise some means for receiving claims of these women.

Another point is that the scope of this Bill has not been extended to West Bengal so far. I am aware that the Central Government try to keep all interests in view. It is, however, my experience that things in Bengal are just what they were before. I feel that adequate attention is not being paid to the problems in West Bengal. I, therefore, want the scope of this Bill to be extended to West Bengal.

With these words I support this Bill and also the amendment moved by Lala Achint Ram.

Shri U. S. Malliah (South Kanara—North): I beg to move:

"That the question be now put."

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The mention was adopted.

Shri A. P. Jain: Sir, you summed up the proposition very correctly and succinctly when you said that there was general agreement in the House that the life of the Act should be extended. The only question that remained for decision was whether it should be extended for six months or for one year. I said that I fully share the anxiety of the hon. Members here as also of the displaced persons that these claims should be processed at the earliest possible date. The question then is that if I can complete the processing of these urban claims within a period of four months, why do I want an extension for one year? That is a very pertinent question, and I must answer it.

As I said, the rural claims are being processed separately, and possibly they may take a little longer. That is one of the reasons. The hon. Member Mrs. Sucheta Kirpalani, I think, has answered the question why I want an extension for one year. She has said that even today there are some women who have not filed their claims.

I cannot understand that when claims are coming in even now, how it can be possible to wind up the organisation. I find there are twofold and self-contradictory demands coming from the hon. Members of the House who contacted me either as individuals or in Committees and also from the displaced persons. It will be very hard to bar out any claim merely because a person could not file it in time. At the same time, the demand is there that the claims must be finalised and some scheme of compensation should be worked out at a very early date—a very legitimate demand. I have to steer the midway course. At the end of January 1952 I passed an order that in future claims shall be entertained only when they are supported by documentary evidence and I found that thereafter the number of claims dwindled down. Nonetheless some hard cases are still coming up. Sometimes it happens that the claimant is absent on the date fixed for hearing and in that case it is open to a Claims Officer to reject that claim straightway and to consign it to the record room. Yet I feel that even if for one reason or another the

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claimant has not been able to appear before the Claims Officer on the date fixed and he comes later on and wants his claim to be revived, there is no reason why he should ordinarily be deprived of that opportunity. In fact we have been reopening the claims because we do not want to stand upon technicalities. A few days ago I had a talk with my Chief Claims Commissioner and he said that there were about 20,000 or 30,000 claimants to whom notices had been sent at their usual addresses, but those notices had returned unserved. What am I to do in such a case? Is it the intention of the hon. Members that if a claimant fails to appear on a particular date but comes later on, his claim should not be reopened? Personally I think it would be hard upon such claimants. I said that these claims will be verified within a period of about four months. I am not in the habit of fixing dates. In fact I have been accused by the hon. Members here and by certain newspaper editors quite vehemently that I am not promising as to when this thing and that thing will be done. I believe in applying myself honestly and earnestly to the job. I know that there are always unforeseen happenings and difficulties. Everyone of us, however honest and capable he may be, is a victim to these difficulties. I have myself been a victim to these difficulties. Therefore, when any question arises about fixing a date, I am reluctant to do that. But today I said positively because I feel confident that urban claims will be finished within the next four months.

Supposing some of these claims are rejected because the claimants were not able to appear before the claims officer and if after six months there is no Claims Officer, no Claims Commissioner and no Claims Organisation, there will be nobody to re-open those claims and pass orders. I ask the hon. Member Lala Achint Ram—I know that he is a sincere friend of the refugees, he has been very friendly towards me—whether he wants the period to be cut down to six months. (*Lala Achint Ram*: Yes, six months.) If a widow or a minor or a patient lying with T.B. in the hospital or undergoing cancer treatment comes after the expiry of six months and asks for re-opening of his claim. I shall not be in a position to do that because I shall have no power and no organisation after the expiry of six months. It is for that reason that I wish I should retain this power for another eight months so that I may be able to deal with those hard cases.

Lala Achint Ram: I shall accept your suggestion provided you give an assurance that all those claims which are in your hands now will be verified within four months.

Shri A. P. Jain: I have given the assurance and if the hon. Member has no faith in my assurance, I cannot help it.

There is another point. When the Claims Officer passes an order, the Act provides for the revision etc. of those orders. A claimant may be dissatisfied with the orders of the officer and he has a right to file a revision. Supposing a person wants to file a revision against a claim decided on the last date, that revision will take some time to be decided. What is going to happen in that case if I am left with no organisation? I have made it perfectly clear that I will wind up the major portion of the Claims Organisation within four months. I will keep a skeleton staff which will deal only with hard cases, to put it metaphorically, which will fasten the loose ends that remain over. In all administrations such loose ends remain over and I think it will be very unwise of this House to deny me an extension for one year. I do hope that Lala Achint Ram will reconsider his position in the light of what I have said.

Shri Hukam Singh: Would this valuation of Muslim property and coming to a conclusion what compensation can be paid, wait till this one year is over?

Shri A. P. Jain: The objective behind the verification of the claims is that the displaced persons must receive compensation. I am not in a position to commit myself now as to what will be the quantum of the compensation. It depends upon many factors. My friend Shri Hukam Singh said that the policy of the Government has been changing. I think he should realise that the policies in a living society are always changing. Policies have to adapt themselves to the changing conditions. May I remind my friend about the history of the Evacuee Property law? Originally the Evacuee Property law was meant for the protection of the properties of the persons who were evacuees in the sense that they had left their usual place of habitation and could not look after their properties. During the unfortunate days 1947 when disturbances on a large scale took place in parts of India some of our countrymen did not feel sufficiently secure in their place of usual residence. Some of them

went to Pakistan, others migrated to other parts of India, and the whole idea of the evacuee property law at the time was that some public officers must be appointed to look after the property of these people. There was a provision in the early laws that as soon as the owner of the property comes and wants the property to be returned to him, it would be restored to him subject to adjustment of some expenses etc. that might have been incurred during the period of management. Later on when it became more apparent that those who had migrated to Pakistan would not be coming here, and those who had come from Pakistan were not returning to their old homeland, the evacuee property law took a different complexion. We wanted to settle with Pakistan that the properties left over on that side by our displaced friends and by the Muslims here might be adjusted in some way. An agreement was reached between the two countries whereby individual exchanges were permitted. But that scheme did not work. Pakistan is still harping upon it but in consultation with the displaced persons we took a decision that hereafter evacuee property here in India will be treated as a pool to be adjusted against the properties left behind in Pakistan. We suggested exchange of evacuee property on Governmental level. That was not acceptable to Pakistan. Certain consequences followed from it.

It will be seen that the problem of evacuee property has been a growing and a changing problem, changing from time to time in accordance with the attitude taken by Pakistan, in accordance with the conditions that have solidified in this land. Therefore, the policy had to be a dynamic policy. And I say that the day our policy ceases to be dynamic and we become static it will be unfortunate for this country, for this nation. I do not think that the changes or modifications of the policy have been unnecessary or were uncalled for. And as I speak here today I say that in future also perhaps some changes may become necessary.

That is just by the way. The main question is what are we going to do for the payment of compensation? We have set up an organisation for the evaluation of evacuee property. That has made considerable progress. The other day while answering a question in this House I said that out of a total of about 2,60,000 properties more than 85,000 have been evaluated. I may say that the evaluation of the evacuee properties involves a lot of office work, collecting certain data and working out certain formulae. After they have been worked out. at a certain stage the problem converts itself into arithmetical calculation. And when I say that about 85,000 properties out of a total of 2,60,000 have been evaluated, I pray that it may not be judged about time-limit by a mathematical calculation, because much of the office work has been done and I think what remains of this evaluation work will take comparatively smaller time. I did not content myself only with the verification of the claims and the evaluation of the evacuee property here, but I have been working out scheme for juxtaposing the one against the other. I appointed a Committee consisting purely of the displaced persons under the chairmanship of Bakshi Tek Chand. I deputed some of my officers who were working as associate members of this Committee to supply them with information and to advise whenever their advice was needed. I wanted to have a free and unhampered opinion of the displaced persons as to how we should equitably distribute the evacuee properties among the displaced persons on the basis of properties left behind by them in Pakistan. That Committee has worked for several months. I am very grateful to Bakshi Tek Chand and his colleagues who have worked hard and submitted a very valuable report. We have partly implemented that report. One of the recommendations of that Committee was that the realisation of small loans which have been advanced to displaced persons through the State Governments might be stayed. We have accepted that. With all respects to the sentiments of the Members who have spoken today, no less than nine or ten, I say that this scheme of compensation is going to be a very complicated scheme. Ideas after ideas have occurred to me. I have been trying to work them out. I have even started a pilot scheme. I do not want to rush ahead without having formed my own opinion based on concrete facts and definite data. My approach has been an all round one with the object of the distribution or disbursement of compensation. I have been asked questions: What is the value of the claims? What is the value of the evacuee property? I have been reluctant to give that information for it is not in the public interest to do so. We talk about some important things in a Committee. Very few secrets are kept in this country and what we said in the Committee, a few days later, found its place in a very distorted manner in the comments of the Re-

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fugee Log' in the *Hindustan Times*. That was most unfortunate. I have known how the Government of Pakistan and Pakistani Press have distorted facts: I have also known how we have been misrepresented all over the world by Pakistan who misconstrued and misrepresented things said here. I have also to look internally. I do not want to say anything which may lead to speculation, lead to forming of hopes which may not fructify—frustrated hopes are one of the worst things—and therefore if some times I have been reticent, if some times I have said that it is not in the public interest to give these figures, I did so in the interest of the displaced persons and I dare say that I have as much love for them, as any Member in this House or outside can claim. I may assure the House that I am none too fond of sitting here. Some friends may think that I have got too much affection for this chair, but let me tell them that I told the Prime Minister that I do not want to continue as Rehabilitation Minister. Even now I tell my friends that if they can find a better man, I will vacate my post just now.

Lala Achint Ram: It would have been very unfortunate if you had resigned.

Shri A. P. Jain: I am here to do service. I am here because I feel that I have been dealing with this problem for the last two years and it has reached a stage when I can make some useful contribution. The day that contribution is over—and there are always limits beyond which a man cannot usefully contribute—I can assure you that you will not find me here. I am sorry at the attitude adopted towards me by Members both from my party and the Opposition. They said: "This Minister is a good man. He is applying himself to the task sincerely". Yet they said.....

An Hon. Member: That is no credit to the Government.

Shri Hukam Singh: It is a credit to him.

Shri A. P. Jain: I am a part of the Government and if it is no credit to the Government then it is no credit to me either.

Now, what do they say next? They say: "Refugees do not believe you. They do not trust you. All that you have been doing is wrong. Seventy displaced persons were living happily and you have uprooted them. You have done nothing in Palwal. You are driving out refugees who are staying in *dharmasalas* in Hardwar. You are sending them out mercilessly. You are a very good man, but everything that you have done is stupid. It is wrong. It is foolish." This is the general approach. Now, I ask you: What is the use of one's being a good man if you are unable to do anything good?

I will not cover the ground which so many hon. Members covered. Perhaps during the Budget debate, we shall have ample time to discuss those things. But there are one or two instances about which I would like to say a few words, more by way of illustration. Some of my very good and esteemed friends—friends for whom I have great affection and regard—have referred to some of the specific acts. The first complaint was about the 70 or 71 families who have been uprooted.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: That is not your Ministry's work.

Shri A. P. Jain: I cannot escape responsibility, because the Government is one and I am a part and parcel of the Government. Therefore, whatever is done by any other Ministry concerns me also.

An Hon. Member: How generous!

12 NOON

Shri A. P. Jain: It is a fact that 70 families have been removed. Their hutments have also been demolished. But what are the facts? The Delhi Municipality required a small plot of land for building a water reservoir for supplying water to the residents of Delhi—both displaced persons and non-displaced persons. They required this land for a public purpose. There were these 70 hutments—improvised structures—on that land. These people were requested to remove themselves. They said, "we all want to go together". The services of my hon. friend Lala Achint Ram—a man who does not give in unless he feels that the proposition is a sound one—were enlisted and they all agreed to move out. They moved accordingly. If the protest has come now, it has come from the leaders who have never been there and who do not know the facts and yet who have waxed eloquent. There was no protest at the time. They went gladly and they settled down there and I daresay they are much happier there. Now, my hon. friend Shri Algurai Shastri said: "Why do you demolish the houses? Why do you remove these people?" Now, that is

one side. On the other side, there is pressure upon me that I should construct a house—a modest house—for every refugee family that is squatting today somewhere or other. That demand is a very legitimate demand. But if these people who are squatting on the roadside or are staying in *dharmasalas* are not to be removed to these new houses, then I ask you: Why do you want me to construct houses? What is the use of my Ministry? Abolish the Rehabilitation Ministry rightway. Now, a majority of the squaters willingly remove themselves, but there are left behind a few truculent type of persons who refuse to move. What is to happen if out of 500 families, 400 or 450 families move and the other 100 or 50 families refuse to move? We have to remove them by force.

My hon. friend Shri Nand Lal Sharma referred to the case of Hardwar. I know something about Hardwar. I come from the district of Saharanpur. Hardwar has been part of my constituency for the last fifteen or sixteen years. I have great affection for Hardwar. There are a number of *dharmasalas* there and also lodging houses. Displaced persons came there about four or five years ago and occupied these *dharmasalas* and lodging houses. Hardwar, as you know, is a place of pilgrimage. Both displaced and non-displaced persons come there and bathe in the holy Ganges to purify their soul. These *dharmasalas* form an essential part of the social and spiritual life of Hardwar. Most of them were, however, occupied by the refugees. We did not want to and we could not ask them to leave these *Dharmasalas*, unless we could provide alternative accomodation for them. Therefore, they have been living there. We are now in a position to provide alternative accommodation, because we have built houses. We asked these people to move, and some of them have moved. Others who have been used to free electricity and free water and no rent refused to move. Should we allow them to live because they are recalcitrant? Some day I would like to have a clear verdict from the Members of the House in regard to what they want me to do in such cases. If the intention is that those persons who are staying in these places must continue to stay there, then I say, wind up the Rehabilitation Ministry. Do not ask me to build any more houses, because everybody is quite happy, according to you, where he is living. What was done in Hardwar should have been appreciated, rather than criticised. I can understand it coming from my hon. friend Shri Nand Lal. Perhaps he thought that here is something which can be used for discrediting the Government. I do not say that everything has been done. It is beyond the capacity of any Rehabilitation Minister, or of any Cabinet, or of any Government, to provide everything that a displaced person needs. Here is a small plant. You uproot it; you pull it out and re-plant it and try to fix it in another place containing much better soil. Even then the plant suffers by the very process of uprooting. Displaced persons have similarly suffered by the process of uprooting and no amount of money, no amount of effort, can compensate them for the injury which they have suffered.

All I can say is that I have been honestly applying myself to my task and I can give this assurance that the day I find that I cannot usefully apply myself, I would not any more inconvenience any friends.

As I said, many points have been raised, I shall answer those points at some later date perhaps when the General Discussion of the Budget takes place. I am glad that Lala Achint Ram has decided not to press his amendment. I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the displaced Persons (Claims) Act, 1950, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: There is an amendment standing in the name of Lala Achint Ram. I understand he does not want to move it. There is also an amendment in the name of Shri Hukam Singh.

Shri Hukam Singh: I am not moving, Sir. I had expected the hon. Minister to say something about compensation. He said he was coming to it but he did not say anything.

Shri A. P. Jain: It is being processed even today. We are working on it.

Clauses 1 to 3 were added to the Bill.

The Title and the Enacting Formula were added to the Bill.

Shri A. P. Jain: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That the Bill be passed."

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : यह विधेयक बहुत अच्छा है, बहस भी हो गई है। मुझे बहुत बोलने की ख्वाहिश नहीं थी लेकिन बहस के समय बहुत सी ऐसी बातें निकल पड़ीं इसलिये इस सम्बन्ध में कुछ बोलना आवश्यक हो जाता है। अब मेरे मित्र मंत्रि महोदय जरूर मंजूर करेंगे कि इस विषय का, यानी निर्वासित लोगों के प्रश्न का, जिस तरह से स्वागत होना चाहिये था स्वागत नहीं हुआ है। यह मानी हुई बात है कि इन्हीं निर्वासित लोगों का बलिदान दे कर हम लोगों ने आज़ादी ली है। इन्हीं निर्वासित लोगों को बलिदान दे कर हमारे मित्र लोग मंत्रियों की गद्दियों पर विराजमान हैं। यहां पर मानवता का तकाज़ा है, कृतज्ञता का तकाज़ा है कि उन के प्रश्नों की ओर सब से पहले ध्यान देना चाहिये। एक डिपार्टमेंट बना दिया गया है, रिहैबिलिटेशन डिपार्टमेंट, और उस का काम बढ़ता चला जा रहा है। जब कभी कोई पद का निर्माण होता है या कोई डिपार्टमेंट का निर्माण होता है तो यह देखा जाता है कि काम हो जाने के बाद भी वह डिपार्टमेंट जारी रहता है सदा के लिये। यह बात अच्छी नहीं है, इस का मैं घोर विरोध करता हूं। मैं चाहता था कि जब यह काम शुरू हुआ था इस को वार बेसिस (war basis) पर तय करना चाहिये था – इस में सारे देश की, सारी सरकार की शक्ति लगनी चाहिये थी और निर्वासित लोगों के प्रश्न को छः महीने में खत्म कर दिया जाय। उस के लिये डिपार्टमेंट की और जरूरत नहीं थी और जिस तरह से हो उनके प्रश्न को हल कर देना चाहिये था, इस में सारी शक्ति लगनी चाहिये थी, जैसा कि मैं ने पहले भी कहा। लेकिन इस तरह का जो काम बढ़ता जा रहा है यह योग्य नहीं है।

सभापति महोदय, हमारे मित्र अलगू राय शास्त्री ने बड़ा सुन्दर कहा कि होना तो चाहिये था यह कि गांधी जी की राय के मुताबिक जो हमारे निर्वासित भाई लोग जिस जगह से आये हैं उस जगह पर उन को बसा देना चाहिये था, यदि हमारी सरकार में, हम लोगों में प्रेम बल है तो प्रेम बल के जरिये और यदि जरूरत होती तो शक्ति के जरिये। हमारे भाई अलगू राय जी ने बहुत अच्छा कहा। जो सरकार यह काम नहीं कर सकती है उसे सरकार कहलाने का हक़ नहीं है यह तो मान लेना चाहिये।

मैं तो आप से कहता हूं कि आप को भी याद होगा कि जब कभी भी पाकिस्तान की बात उठाई जाती है तो हमारे प्राइम मिनिस्टर जो बहुत कहते हैं कि "Pakistan has come to stay." अरे साहब, मैं भी आशीर्वाद करता हूं कि पाकिस्तान बना रहे, बरक़रार रहे, उस के खिलाफ़ नहीं कहता हूं लेकिन मैं यह कहता हूं कि चाहे प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब चाहे संसार के कितने लोग पाकिस्तान को कितने आशीर्वाद देते रहें, पाकिस्तान के लोगों को याद रखना चाहिये, हमारे प्राइम मिनिस्टर को याद रखना चाहिये, कि जब तक देश के किसी हिस्से में कोई निर्वासित इस विचार से दुखित रहेगा कि पाकिस्तान की वजह से उन को कष्ट हुआ है, तब तक पाकिस्तान का सिंहासन डांवांडोल रहेगा यह मामूली बात नहीं है। मनुष्य को दुःख दे कर, मनुष्य को कष्ट पहुंचा कर, मनुष्य को विपत्ति में डाल कर इस तरह के जो कार्य हुए हैं यह न सफ़लीभूत हो सकते हैं और न होने चाहियें।

खैर, जो कुछ हो गया हो गया, लेकिन आप को याद होगा कि कल या परसों इस बारे में प्रश्न उठा था कि यह जो निर्वासित लोगों के दावे की जांच हो रही है

वह कहां हो रही है। मैं तो समझ रहा था उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, कि जांच पाकिस्तान में हो रही है। इस वास्ते मैं ने पूछा था कि जांच किस तरह से होती है। जांच तो उसी जगह होना चाहिये जहां उन की जायदाद है, सम्पत्ति है। जायदाद तो पाकिस्तान में है, लाहौर में है, करांची में है और जांच होती है यहां। इसी वास्ते मैं ने मंत्री महोदय से पूछा था कि जिस वक़्त जांच होती है उस वक़्त निर्वासित लोग हाज़िर रहते हैं या हमारी सरकार का कोई प्रतिनिधि रहता है तब उस वक्त कहा गया कि वह जांच वहां नहीं होती है,वह जांच तो दिल्ली में आफ़िस में बैठ कर हो रही है। यहां पर जांच हो जाती है, कैसे हो जाती है और कैसे होती है यह शायद मंत्री महोदय जाने लेकिन अब इस बारे में मैं मंत्री महोदय से कहूंगा जैसा कि हमारे भाई अलगू राय जी ने भी कहा है और बात भी सही है, कि हमारे निर्वासित लोग जहां से आये हैं वहां उन को बसाना चाहिये। अगर वह नहीं हो सकता तो दूसरा उपाय यह हो सकता है कि उन लोगों को जितना वहां गया है उतना यहां मिलना चाहिये।

अब प्रश्न है कि कैसे मिले और कहां से मिले। जो प्रापरटी (property) है उसकी वैल्यूएशन (valuation) आनी चाहिये और पाकिस्तान सरकार को और वहां की जनता को देना चाहिये। यही सत्य है और यही न्याय है। इसलिये इस तरह की कोशिश होनी चाहिये। उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं ने यह भी सुना है और बहुत से भाइयों को यह भय होता है कि जो इवैक्यी प्रापरटी (evacuee property) है वह इवपरेट (evaporate) हो रहा है या दिन ब दिन खत्म हो रहा है।

एक बात यह भी मालूम हुई है कि पाकिस्तान से कुछ लोगों को बुलाया जा रहा है, आमंत्रित किया जा रहा है, कि यहां आकर बसो। इस तरह की बात मालूम हुई, न मालूम कहां तक सत्य है, यह तो भगवान ही जानें। वहां से जो मुसलमान आयेंगे वह यहां पर कांग्रेस सरकार की मदद करेंगे। इस सरकार की मदद के लिये वहां से मुसलमानों को बुलाया जा रहा है और बसाया जा रहा है। यह बात कहां तक सत्य है, मैं नहीं कह सकता हूं।

श्री त्यागी: यह बात आप ने कहां से सुनी।

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह: नाम तो अभी मुझे याद नहीं है, नहीं तो मैं यहां पर कह देता। कहने में मुझे कोई आपत्ति नहीं थी। मगर मैं ने इस तरह की बात सुनी। मैं कहता हूं कि इस तरह की भावना को ले कर हमारे भाई यहां पर गद्दी पर रहना चाहते हैं। विदेशियों की मदद से और इस प्रकार की कार्यवाहियों से वह अपनी गद्दी कायम रखना चाहते हैं।

अभी मेरे एक भाई ने ७० मकानों के गिराये जाने के बारे में कहा। मुझे उन के हटाये जाने पर दुःख हुआ मगर जैन साहब ने जो बातें कीं उस से मुझे कुछ शान्ति मिली। लेकिन मेरी समझ में यह बात नहीं आई कि क्या हमारी सरकार और उस के अफ़सरों की आंखें बन्द थीं जिस समय ये मकान बनाये गये थे या बनाने शुरू किये गये थे। उन की आखों के सामने यह मकान बनने शुरू हुए और पूरे हुए एक दो सप्ताह में यह बन कर तैयार नहीं हो गये होंगे। कई महीनों में यह मकान बने होंगे। उस समय उन लोगों को मकान बनाने से क्यों नहीं रोका गया। जब मकान बन गये तो एक बहाना ले कर कि उस जगह

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह]

पर म्युनिसिपल्टी के लिये वाटर वर्कस बनाया जा रहा है, इसलिये उन को हटाया गया है। अगर इस जगह पर वाटर वर्कस न बनता और दूसरी जगह पर बना दिया जाता तो क्या कोई हर्ज था। अगर वह लोग वहां पर रहते तो आसमान नहीं टूट जाता और काम का भी कोई हर्ज नहीं होता। सरकार को और हमारे मंत्रीमंडल को अक्ल होनी चाहिये। दो चार वर्षों से वह लोग उन मकानों में रह रहे हैं और अब तक उन को नहीं हटाया गया। मुझे मालूम हुआ है कि अभी भी लोगों को उनके मकानों से हटाया जा रहा है। तो मैं कहता हूं कि जिस क़ानून के मुताबिक आप लोगों को हटा रहे हैं उस कानून को मैं आदमी का कानून नहीं कहूंगा। उसे लौलैस (Lawless) कानून कहा जायेगा। अगर कोई निर्वासित अपने स्थान से हटाया जायेगा .....

Shri C. R. Narsimhan : On a point of order, Sir, is *akel* parliamentary ?

पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव : उपाध्यक्ष जी, मैं आप के जरिये से बाबू रामनारायण सिंह जी से यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि जिस समय यह क़ानून (Delhi Premises Eviction Act) यहां पर पास किया गया था वह खुद हाउस के एक मेम्बर थे या नहीं ? क्या यह एक्ट उन के सामने पास नहीं किया गया ? उस क़ानून के आधार पर अगर किसी को हटा दिया जाय तो उस कानून को लौ लैस (Lawless) कानून कहना मुनासिब नहीं है।

Mr. Chairman He may have committed a mistake.

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : बहुत अच्छा प्रश्न किया। जिस तरह से यहां पर वोट होता है आप को मालूम है कि कोई प्रश्न सरकार की तरफ़ से पेश किया जाता है चाहे वह वाजिब हो या ग़ैर वाजिब, मंजूर हो जाता है। वोट देते समय यह सोचने का अधिकार किसी को नहीं रहता है कि प्रश्न उचित है व अनुचित है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि अगर हम किसी प्रकार का कोई संशोधन रखना चाहें तो उस का वही हाल होगा जिस तरह आप चाहेंगे। इस तरह की बातें चलती आई हैं। आखिर जो कुछ हुआ सो हुआ। मैं अपने भाई अजीत प्रसाद से कहना चाहता हूं कि उन को सावधान रहना चाहिये और इस तरह की बातें न होनी चाहिये। मगर इस तरह का कोई आश्वासन जरूर दिया जाना चाहिये।

श्री त्यागी : आश्वासन तो मिलत है।

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : उस के लिये धन्यवाद है। बिल का मैं स्वागत करता हूं। मुझे इस में कोई उज्र नहीं है। अगर उस में ६ महीने का संशोधन मान लिया जायेगा तो मुझे खुशी होगी। मैं चाहता हूं कि वह प्रश्न जल्दी हल हो जाये। कोई भी भाई मकान के बिना न रहे। कोई भाई ऐसा न रहे कि जिसे रोजगार न मिलता हो। उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आप को याद होगा कि आज तीन वर्ष होते हैं कि टंडन जी ने निर्वासित लोगों की एक सभा में कहा था कि जिस सरकार ने निर्वासित लोगों को अब तक नहीं बसा दिया है उस सरकार को गद्दी पर रहने का हक़ नहीं है। इस के बाद दो वर्ष गुजर गये। अगर इस चीज को ६ महीने के अन्दर तय नहीं किया जाता तो इस सरकार को वहां से दूर हो जाना चाहिये।

(English translation of the above speech)

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Sir, this is a very good Bill and enough discussion has taken place on it. Though I had no intention of taking part in the discussion, certain points have arisen which have necessitated my taking the floor. I am sure that my friend the hon. Minister would admit that the problem of displaced persons has not been paid the attention it deserved. This is an established fact that we got our independence as a result of the sacrifices of the displaced persons. Our friends occupy the ministerial chairs because we sacrificed the displaced persons.. Humanity and gratitude demand that their problems should be given priority. Rehabilitation Ministry has been formed to tackle these problems and the work of the Ministry is increasing. We see that whenever a new post or a new Department is created, it has a tendency to continue for ever, even though the purpose for which it is created is achieved. This is not proper and I am entirely against it. What I would have liked is that these problems should have been solved on a 'war basis' by diverting all the energies of the Government and the country towards their solution and the whole task of rehabilitating displaced persons should have been completed within six months. The continuance of the Ministry was not imperative. The task should have been completed, as I said earlier, by putting in all the energy we had. The work of the Ministry is increasing and that is not desirable.

Sir, as my hon. friend Shri Algu Rai Shastri put it very aptly, we should have rehabilitated the displaced persons in the same places from where they had been uprooted through love as Gandhiji thought, if our Government had the force of love or through sheer force if it had been necessary. We should admit that a Government that cannot do this, has no right to be called as such.

I want to say, as you yourself remember, that whenever somebody raises the question of Pakistan, our Prime Minister says—"Pakistan has come to stay". I also wish that Pakistan should stay and thrive. I do not oppose it. All I want to say is that the people of Pakistan and our Prime Minister should remember that as long as a single displaced person in any part of our country thinks that he is unhappy because of Pakistan, Pakistan will never enjoy stability, even if our Prime Minister and other people in the world were to bless Pakistan. This is not an ordinary thing. Whatever is done by giving pain to others, by bringing misfortune on others, will be unsuccessful and should be so.

Well, what is done is done. You must be remembering that day before yesterday a question was raised as to where the claims of displaced persons were being verified. Sir, I was under the impression that the verification was being done in Pakistan. That is why I asked how it was being done. Claims should be verified at the place where the property is situated. The property of the displaced persons is in West Pakistan, Lahore or Karachi but the claims regarding that property are verified in India. When I asked the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation whether the displaced persons or any representative of the Government of India was present at the time of verification I was told that verification was made not in Pakistan but here in Delhi. The hon. Minister only might be knowing as to how verification of claims is being done, but I would request him, as our friend Shri Algu Rai Shastri has rightly remarked, that the displaced persons should be settled in places where they have come from. If it is not practicable, the alternative is that they should be fully compensated for the loss they have sustained.

Now the question is as to how and wherefrom can the compensation be paid. The property left behind by displaced persons in Pakistan should be evaluated and the sum should be paid by Pakistan and her people. This only is justice and we should try to secure it. Sir, I have heard and many others apprehend that the evacuee property in India is slowly 'evaporating'. I have also come to know that people who have migrated to Pakistan are being invited to come back and settle down in India. God alone knows how far that is true. The Muslims who would come back from Pakistan would help the Congress Government. Muslims are being called back and resettled here to help this Government. I cannot say how far this is true.

Shri Tyagi: Where did you learn it from?

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: I do not remember the name of the person who told me this, otherwise I would have told you. I cannot have any objection in divulging his name. But that is what I have come to know. Our

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friends want to maintain themselves in power by such methods, by the help of foreigners.

Just now an hon. friend mentioned the demolition of 70 houses, which has grieved me very much. Shri Jain's remarks in this connection have consoled me to some extent. I cannot understand why our Government and its officers closed their eyes when these houses were under construction. After all they knew that houses were being built and their construction could not have been completed in a week or two, it must have taken many months. Why were the owners not prevented from constructing houses at that time? When the houses were completed they were demolished on the plea that municipal water works was to be constructed at that site. What would have been lost if another site were chosen for water works? The skies would not have fallen if those people would have been allowed to live in those houses, nor would it have harmed the work of the Government. The Government and our Cabinet should have some sense. Those people were living in those houses for some years past and they were not evicted. I have come to know that even now people are being evicted from their houses. I dare say I would not call that law a law, under which they were evicted. That is a "lawless law." If a displaced person is evicted.....

Shri C. R. Narasimhan (Krishnagiri): On a point of order, Sir, is *akal* parliamentary?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I would like to ask Babu Ramnarayan Singh through you, Sir, whether he was not a member of this House when this law (Delhi Premises Eviction Act) was passed? Was this Act not passed in his presence? If somebody is evicted on the basis of that law, it would not be proper to label it as a "lawless law."

Mr. Chairman: He may have committed a mistake.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: A very good question, I should say. You know how a measure is voted upon here. Whenever the Government brings forward anything, it is passed. At the time of voting nobody has the right to ask whether that measure is proper or not. What I want to say is that if we want to have any amendment, it would go the way you would wish it to. This has been going on. However, what is done is done. I want to request my hon. friend Shri Jain that he should take care lest such things are repeated in future. We should get an assurance to that effect.

Shri Tyagi: Assurance is there.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Thank you for that. I have no objection to the Bill and I welcome it. But I would be very glad if the time limit is fixed at six months. I want that this problem should be solved at an early date. No one should be without a job and a house.

Sir, you may remember that Shri Tandon remarked in a meeting of displaced persons about three years back that the Government who had not till then resettled the displaced persons, had no right to continue in office. Two years have passed. If the problem is not solved within six months, the Government should relinquish office.

Shri Meghnad Saha (Calcutta North-West): *rose*—

Mr. Chairman: There is very limited scope in the third reading...

Shri Meghnad Saha: Sir, I am very thankful to you for giving me this opportunity.....

An hon. Member: He has not given

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. The hon. Member will kindly resume his seat. I was telling the hon. Member that the scope of discussion at the time of third reading is very limited.

Shri Meghnad Saha: It will be a very short speech, Sir.

Mr. Chairman: All right.

Shri Meghnad Saha: I am very thankful to my hon. friend on my left for his speech. It exactly represents my ideas and my feelings. I come from East Bengal where millions of my own kith and kin have been uprooted and deprived of all their belongings. They have taken shelter in West Bengal and I know in what plight they are living.

Of course the Government of India has spent crores of rupees and done all in its power to give relief to these people. But I am compelled to say that the measures taken are absolutely inadequate. When this matter of the exodus started I had a talk with the late Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and I told him that if this problem is to be tackled it has to be put on a defence basis.

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. The hon. Member is new to the House. I would only tell him that the scope of this Bill is very limited. It relates only to claims and not generally to the difficulties that are suffered by displaced persons. The hon. Member may take another opportunity to express his views in that regard.

Shri Meghnad Saha: May I go on, Sir?

Mr. Chairman: Yes.

Shri Meghnad Saha: The great mistake was an administrative mistake. This matter should have been dealt with on the basis of emergency, and if this was done for the same amount of money which we have spent much more relief could have been given. I will give you one example. What the displaced persons want is land and there are two million acres of cultivable waste in West Bengal. This is not my opinion. This is from the Government statistics and I suggested that all this land should be acquired compulsorily by the Government and distributed according to some system amongst the refugees. This was not done. The usual procedure for land acquisition is being resorted to and if the usual methods of land acquisition are resorted to. I know it takes two to four years before anything can be done and then you have to go to a lot of litigation. Most of the money, I can assure my hon. friend opposite and the Treasury Benches, has not gone into the pockets of the refugees but into the pockets of greedy zamindars, officers and others and, therefore, this money has not gone to the relief of the refugees themselves.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

INDIAN TARIFF (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act,1934 be taken into consideration."

This amending Bill consists of a number of items. I believe the Commerce and Industry Ministry have sent out to hon. Members notes in regard to the contents of this Bill, and I hope every hon. Member has got a copy thereof. The one feature of this Bill to which I would draw the attention of hon. Members is, with the exception of the zip fasteners, all other items mentioned in this Bill enjoy protection now. The only new item is zip fasteners, and that is the only item which has not been notified under the powers vested in Government by section 3A of the Indian Tariff Act, under which protection can be given as soon as the Tariff Commission or the Tariff Board submits a report. All the other items have been notified under the powers vested, as I said by section 3A. The duration of protection of the various items varies. I would again like to tell this House that in regard to only two items, the Government have acted on their own without any specific recommendation by the Tariff Commission. The items concerned are aluminium and bicycles. These two subjects are now being considered by the Tariff Commission and it is expected that reports will be forthcoming before the end of the year. As the protection was lapsing, Government had to take action to continue protection on the existing scale till the end of this year, so that further action can be taken on the recommendation of the Tariff Commission.

I shall just say a few words in regard to the other items. Sago flour, starch and farina relate to the starch industry. I suppose some hon. Members are familiar with this subject as people who have been here before must know all about it. This kind of measure is a sort of an annual which appears time and again in every session. Starch is an industry which has been promised protection by the British Indian Government in 1944. In 1948, the Tariff Board recommended protection and it has been enjoying protection since then.

Silk products, silk waste, silk yarn, silk sewing thread and fabrics not otherwise specified, which contain 90

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per cent, of silk, have also been enjoying protection. The Tariff Board report in regard to this particular industry has recommended protection only upto the end of 1952. It may surprise some hon. Members why the Board which has gone into this matter has recommended protection only for a short period. There are, I know, hon. Members in this House who are interested in the silk industry, which is not in a particularly good way now. I might invite the attention of hon. Members to the concluding portion of the report of the Tariff Board in this regard which indicates that the industry concerned has not fully placed their case before the Tariff Board, and that all that they could do was just to recommend protection for a short period. The matter is one about which the Government is very much concerned and it is under examination. Very possibly we may again ask the Tariff Commission to look into it to see if any further protection is needed, unless it be that by the operation of import controls, some measure of protection is incidentally conferred on this industry and no immediate action becomes necessary.

Items 75(5), 75(6), 75(7) and 75(8) relate to bicycles. The next item happens to be alloy and steel for the purpose of making tools. This is covered by the Tariff Board's report. The protection that is to be given is to last till December 1954.

Items 66(a) and 66(1) relate to aluminium. As I have said, this is a matter which is now being considered by the Tariff Commission. The protection granted is a purely temporary one.

The next item relates to grinding wheels. At the moment, the protection for grinding wheels has lapsed; unless this House passes this Bill and it is also passed by the other House, no protection will be available to this industry. The report of the Tariff Board on this particular industry does not recommend protection in the same form and to the same extent as was granted before. The rate of duties has been changed and actually the duties have been substantially reduced from 105 to 50 per cent. Certain types of grinding wheels have been withdrawn from the category that has been protected, namely, bigger wheels which are not being manufactured in this country, and which industry needs.

I have already mentioned about zip fasteners. So far as protection for this particular industry is concerned, it would only be afforded if the House approves of this Bill, because, a notification under section 3A has not been issued in this connection. There have been minor variations in regard to duties on zip fasteners which the Finance Department have made under the powers vested in them by the Sea Customs Act; but they are not in any sense protective.

The one item which needs explanation is the variation in the Tariff Schedule which appears at the end, namely, that in item No. 75(9) (ii), in the entry in the second column, after the word "leather" where it occurs for the first time, the word "plastic" shall be inserted. This is merely a matter of bringing the Schedule up-to-date because this particular item relates to parts and accessories imported for the purpose of the motor car industry. Now, plastics are being introduced for the purpose of making upholstery for cars and things of that sort and therefore this alteration has been made.

The total import of this particular Bill is not considerable. It may be that some hon. Members here feel that the protection granted is inadequate. But I do not believe there are many people who feel that the protection should not have been granted. The essential items, perhaps hon. Members might be interested from the consumer point of view, would be the two industries for which we have given only temporary protection, namely, bicycles and aluminium; bicycles, because it is a conveyance needed by the common man, aluminium because of the vessels and other things that are made out of aluminium. But both these will come up for review again before this House when the Tariff Commission reports on them. I might humbly submit that there is no possible room for dissatisfaction that the measure of protection granted is excessive. It may be that some might feel it inadefuate, but the hands of Government are tied in this matter, because the Government normally does not act in an executive capacity in this matter. We are dependent on the Tariff Commission's report. Some hon. Member who spoke to me privately said, "I would like the duty to be raised further". But it is not a matter which I can decide; the House can decide, but I cannot decide on behalf of Government for the reason that the ultimate consequences of the raising of duty on a particular commodity are consequences on the consumption of that article by the general consumer. It has to be considered and reported upon by the Tariff Commis-

which is a statutory body. Therefore, to that extent we are precluded from accepting any amendment which seeks to raise the duty. It may be the House might totally reject the Bill, it may be the House might want the quantum of protection to be reduced—the House is sovereign in this matter—but so far as Government is concerned, it is not in a position to exercise its discretion in the matter of raising the duty or in importing into the body of the Bill another category relating to any particular item mentioned in this Bill. That is the position of Government.

I do hope that I have by way of preliminary remarks mentioned enough to make the position clear to hon. Members. Should any hon. Member feel that he wants further clarification, I shall have an opportunity of speaking again towards the end of this discussion. I shall then satisfy him to the best of my ability.

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, be taken into consideration".

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy (Salem): I have been listening to the hon. Minister with great interest. Now, I am interested only in two items about which I would like to place a few facts for the consideration of this House. With regard to item 11(2)—Sago flour—I wish to submit a few points. The starch industry is supplying materials which are necessary for three main industries, namely the textile, jute and the paper industries. I see from page nine, of the Tariff Board's report that the total requirement of this country per annum is about 50,000 tons. Now, if that is so, I would request the hon. Minister also to look at page 30 in which it is said that starch can be produced out of some other indigenous material available in our country to the tune of about 90,000 tons. At page nine it is stated that though the present requirement is only 50,000 tons, if the Size Control Order were withdrawn, the consumption of different kinds of starch, excluding wheat starch, would probably increase to 75,000 or 80,000 tons. Even if that be true, we find from page 30 that by using some material which is available to us in our country and which has not been fully exploited, we can be completely self-sufficient in the matter of our starch production. We will even have a surplus of 10,000 tons per annum. The protection for the starch industry is necessary for this reason. I am only sorry that the protection is not greater.

My hon. friend has told me that at this stage it is not possible to increase the duty. I wish the House had the power...

Mr. Chairman: The House has always got the power; only the sanction of the President is necessary.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Thank you, Sir, I shall now give some other reasons to show why the duty has to be increased. Starch is now produced out of maize, and tapioca. As my hon. friends coming from Travancore will know, tapioca is an important item which comes into our food requirements. It is unfortunate that so much of tapioca should be used for the starch industry alone, instead of being used to satisfy the food requirements of the country.

The difficulty about the sago imports is this. If sago is allowed to be imported freely, it affects the starch industries of our country. I know there are about 100 sago factories in and around the Salem city alone in Madras State. About half a dozen of them produce sago starch. The indiscriminate import of sago has led to a serious loss in those factories. The stuff which is imported from abroad is considerably cheaper; it needs investigation as to why and how those foreign factories are able to export to us at such a low price, so low that factories in our country are not able to compete with them. It is therefore necessary that protection should be granted to the indigenous industries.

In doing so, I should like to make a few suggestions to the hon. Minister. Steps should be taken to see that tapioca, which is such an important item in our food requirements, should not be used for the production of starch.

Secondly, I would like to urge that some urgent steps should be taken to see that a full utilisation is made of the tamarind seed kernels. In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of hon. Members to some extracts from the report of the Tariff Board.

On page, 31 it is said that there was a reference made to it in 1947, with regard to the tamarind seed kernel powder as a sizing material. On page 30, it is stated

> "In a note dated 25th May, 1951, forwarded by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, it was stated that the progress of research and developmental work on tamarind

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kernel powder had been extremely slow owing to non-availability of electric power in Bombay city where one of the more important manufacturers had his factory."

Again in the same page, it is stated:

"The Indian Standards Institution had already prepared a draft standard specification for tamarind kernel powder, and that this was now under consideration and would be ready for adoption in three months' time."

Hon. Members are aware that tamarind seed oftentimes goes into the dust-bin, while we can make wealth out of this. Here is a case where wealth can be made out of waste. I am sure, that if all the tamarind seeds are collected, we can manufacture enough starch out of them. Not merely will it be possible to meet our possible increased requirements, but we may also have a surplus left after meeting the sizing needs which will come to about 50,000 tons. You know that all our avenue trees in all the district and local fund roads in the whole of the Madras State, consist only of tamarind trees and nothing but that. The seeds coming from them can be utilised for this purpose; by this we can save so much of our national wealth, which can be conserved for other and more useful purposes.

Incidentally I may mention—my friend the hon. Minister will also be interested in it—the tamarind seed contains another very important material for another industry. The brown rind of the tamarind seed contains tanin out of which tanic acid is made for swabing our throats if we have a sore throat, probably by making a vehement speech.

An Hon. Member: The Opposition can then take advantage of it.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: If an industry can be started for making starch out of this tamarind seed kernel, you will incidentally be having as a by-product tanin which will be useful for the pharmaceutical industry. I therefore submit that the hon. Minister will kindly see that there is no delay in pushing forward the schemes for the utilisation of this waste-product and thus see that we manufacture 90,000 tons out of this tamarind seed which goes into waste, into the dustbin and municipal refuse dump, and make wealth out of this for our country, for the benefit of the people at large.

I pass on next to the sericulture industry, and I have got a report about that also. I am not so much interested in the rate of duty as the duration of the protection that is sought to be given. At page 14 of the report, I see a note to the effect that the import of raw silk from foreign countries has had a very depressing effect upon the sericulture industry of this country. You know that sericulture is a very important cottage industry. You know that in portions of Kashmir, Bengal, Mysore, Kollegal taluk of Coimbatore district and Hosur taluk of Salem district, this is a flourishing cottage industry. And if sufficient protection is not given to it, this industry might well be threatened with destruction, because under conditions of sweated labour, foreign countries produce silk and export to us at rates at which we cannot compete with them. If that is so, and if that proposition is accepted, I shall place before this House another proposition, another statement of fact which I find at page 31 of the same report. The domestic demand of raw silk is estimated at four million lbs. per annum. The indigenous production during the last three years has been of the order of 2·1 million lbs. It is patent that we are able to satisfy our requirements only to the extent of 50 per cent. and the gap is about 50 per cent. If that is the gap, we will not be able to fill up that gap within a short period of six months. We are now in May, 1952. This Bill, if it is passed into an Act, is to have effect only up to the end of December, 1952. I ask you, Sir, in all humility if this gap can be filled up by them? What would be the effect of such a short term protection upon those people who are interested in this industry and possibly in increasing the production?

Unless a reasonable guarantee is given to the producers that there will be a continuity of the protection given and an assurance is given that the time will be long enough for them to invest some amounts to increase the production, I am afraid and I respectfully submit, that the producers will not come forward to invest their money.

I am rather surprised at the report, which has got two conflicting paragraphs which are almost juxtaposed on page 32 and 33. At page 32 the report says that the Board wishes to examine this question every six months. At page 33 the report says:

"The consensus of opinion at the public inquiry was that such instability will seriously militate

against the success of any efforts at improving the quality of cocoons and raw silk. We agree with this view and consider that apart from long-term measures such as those designed to reduce the cost of mulberry to improve the quality of silk worm seed and cocoons, to secure more orderly marketing of cocoons and to improve the efficiency of reeling, it is urgently necessary to devise measures to promote greater stability of raw silk prices."

There seems to be a conflict in the report between long-term and short-term measures. My respectful submission to you is that these things cannot be reviewed off and on, within three months and six months. The people who are interested in this business of increasing silk production should be assured of a longer duration of protection so that they may have the incentive to invest in the business and increase production.

With these few words, I respectfully beg to submit that the hon. Minister will be kind enough to take note of the few remarks that I have made and try to implement them.

Shri Venkataraman (Tanjore): I propose confining my remarks to the grant of protection for the new industry, namely, the zip fastener industry. The idea of granting protection has not come a day too soon, and we all welcome it because for the first time our country is launching upon fabricating high value out of small material. The zip industry is very prosperous in other countries, and though we do not have exact figures as to the amount which we import, from the variety of uses to which it is put, from the large use that every one of us makes in the country, I take it that the demand for zip fasteners must be something very great. I am unable to agree with the Tariff Board's conjecture that the demand would be about 7·5 lakhs per annum. Our suitcases, our leather handbags, ladies' handbags and what not are all made with zip fasteners, and, therefore, there is a very great market for zip fasteners in this country. (*Interruption.*) Our bush-shirts, as my hon. friend reminds me, are made with zip fasteners, but of a different material; they are made out of plastics, but protection is not sought to be given to the zip fasteners made out of plastic material. So far as zip fasteners made out of brass strips are concerned, the country has already established a very important industry in my part of the country, and I am happy to say that it is progressing well. But unless the helping hand of the Government goes to that industry, it cannot prosper in the face of competition from other countries. The total amount produced so far has been negligible In 1950, I find they have produced only about 61,000 feet, and for the year 1951 the production is 67,000 feet. But we are happy to find that in the Tariff Report the expectation for the year 1951-52 is 1,20,000 feet and for 1952-53 it is 4,80,000 feet, and that for 1953-54 the production is expected to be 7,20,000 feet. Therefore, we may take it that experts have gone into the question and have come to the conclusion that this industry deserves the support of the people and the Government.

There are one or two points on which the Tariff Board has made certain recommendations, and I wonder whether the Government are going to adopt them in giving this protection. For instance, the brass strips which form the basic material for the manufacture of zip fasteners are not readily available in this country. Our metal fabricating companies, like Devi Dayal and the Kamani Metal Products, do not produce these metal strips, and they have got to be imported from other countries. It was urged on behalf of the companies which produce these fasteners that protection should be given for import of metal strips from other countries, whether it is from hard currency areas or from soft currency areas. I do not know what the Finance Minister is going to say with regard to the import of this material from the hard currency areas, but if they want that this industry should prosper in this country, they should strain every nerve to see that the import of metal strips, the quantity of which is not likely to be very large, is allowed from even hard currency areas. There is another handicap with regard to this industry, namely, that only 35 per cent. of the material comes out as zip fasteners and the remaining 65 per cent. of the metal scrap becomes practically waste. There are no facilities existing in this country for re-rolling that scrap. Permission should therefore be given to those factories to export that scrap for the purpose of getting it re-rolled. But if under the very strict enforcement of the law such permission is not given to one to export this metal scrap outside India and the companies are prevented from sending it to other countries for re-rolling into

[Shri Venktaraman]

metal strips, then the industry will be under very great handicap. It is up to the Government to say whether they would permit export of scrap which is left behind after making of those metal teeth. The question is very important because 65 per cent. of the raw material which is used in the industry becomes scrap and the cost of production becomes, therefore, very high. Therefore, I would urge on the Government that this aspect of the industry should be given due weight and the companies which are making these zip fasteners should be permitted to export the scrap to foreign countries for the specific purpose of re-rolling them into metal strips.

We are very glad that the Government has come forward to protect a nascent industry which according to me requires only these two facilities, namely, the right to export scrap and also the right to import from hard currency areas. We do hope that the Government will give their sympathetic consideration to this matter.

With these few words, Sir, I heartily support the measure before the House.

Shri A. C. Guha (Santipur): I think the Government is committed to the principle of affording protection to the industries. So, from the point of view of giving protection to the Indian industries, there cannot be any objection. But the question is whether the protection that is being given is sufficient or whether the protection is being mis-used by the industrialists. The hon. Minister was kind to mention the interests of the consumers, and I think when an industry is given any protection, the interests of the consumers also should be taken into consideration. The hon. Minister will find that the fair selling price of the two items—sago globules and tapioca pearls—before 1950 was reported to be Rs. 34 per cwt. In 1950 the fair selling price was reported to be Rs. 41 per cwt. and now we find that the fair selling price is Rs. 61 per cwt. So, the question naturally arises as to whether the industry has been misusing the protection that we have given to it. Why has the cost of production risen so much? One reason is given in the report, that is the cost of maize starch.

1 P.M.

Mr. Chairman: It is now one o'clock. The hon. Member may resume his speech later.

The House then adjourned till Five of the Clock.

The House reassembled at Five of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

GENERAL BUDGET, 1952-53

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): I deem it a great privilege to present this Budget to the first Parliament elected under the Constitution.

As hon. Members are aware, a budget for the current year was presented to the Provisional Parliament last February as usual and a Vote on Account was obtained from that Parliament to enable the Government to be carried on for the first four months of the current year. A Finance Act was also passed by that Parliament continuing, during the current year, the taxes in force when the Budget was presented. I then mentioned that the Budget as then presented will be presented again to the new Parliament with such changes as may be considered necessary by the new Government.

The usual factual information contained in the Budget speech was embodied in a White Paper which was circulated with the Budget last February. I am having this White Paper and the speech I then made circulated to hon. Members. I do not propose to go over the whole ground covered by this White Paper and I shall only deal with the further changes that have taken place since I presented the Budget to the Provisional Parliament.

In my speech last February I mentioned, as a welcome development in the country's economy, the steady drop in prices which had been taking place from July 1951 onwards. At the end of January 1952 the general index number of whole-sale prices stood at 430·3, a drop of nearly six per cent. from the peak figure of 457·5 reached in April 1951. Between January and March there was a more pronounced fall in the index number, which dropped to 364·9 points, that is, by a further fourteen per cent. by the middle of March. Since then there has been a slight upward movement and the index number for the week ended the third May stands at 369·8 points which may be compared with 301·4, 367·2 and 393·3, the corresponding index numbers for August 1947, May 1948 and May 1950 respectively.

This general fall in prices has, as I had occasion to explain more than once in the debate following the Budget, not been confined to any particular commodity although in the case of some of them the drop has been rather abrupt. It has been largely due to the disappearance of several international factors which led to an artificial rise in prices since June 1950, the impact of the monetary and credit policy adopted by Government to check inflation and the improvement in the general internal supply position as a result of increased production and larger imports. The fall in prices in the case of certain commodities has, however, been sharper than these factors warranted but, this is mainly because of speculative overtrading which had led to an artificial increase in recent months in the prices of these commodities. On the whole, the drop in the price level in recent months has been beneficial to the country's economy, although the readjustment necessitated by lack of accord between costs and prices is bound to cause some unavoidable difficulties to those engaged in business. In their own interest they must now decide to cut their losses reasonably and concentrate on economy and efficiency of production.

Hon. Members are aware of the measures taken by Government from time to time to meet the situation created by the abruptness of the fall in prices with particular reference to its effect on the country's export earnings. The export duty on hessian was reduced last February from Rs. 1,500 per ton, to Rs. 750 per ton and was further reduced a few days ago, as simply a revenue duty, to Rs. 275 per ton. The duty on sacking was also similarly reduced from Rs. 350 per ton to Rs. 175 per ton. Export duties on raw cotton and cotton waste have also been reduced, while the duties on wool and groundnut oil and some oil seeds have been abolished. Licensing restrictions on the export of jute goods have been almost completely withdrawn. In the case of cotton textiles, in which there has been, as in the other exporting countries in the world, a sharp reversal of the relative strength of demand and supply, distribution controls have been relaxed and mills have been allowed freely to sell the entire production of fine and super-fine cloth and 80 per cent. of the production of coarse and medium cloth. They have also been permitted to export fine and super-fine cloth freely for shipment upto the end of September 1952. Last week Government also permitted the free export of coarse and medium cloth for shipment upto the end of August 1952. Government have also assisted the industry in purchasing foreign cotton by arranging special credit facilities, while the concomitant fall in the prices of raw cotton has been arrested by Government's offer to purchase the cotton at floor prices if necessary, backed by the necessary organisation.

The level of industrial production during 1951 showed a marked improvement in spite of the special difficulties which some of the industries encountered in obtaining essential raw materials and the cut in electric power in Bombay. During the early months of this year the improvement in the production of important commodities like steel, cement, and cotton textiles has been maintained. Production of jute goods in the first three months of the year also showed an increase but from the 1st of April the industry has had to reduce working hours owing to a fall in demand which in its turn is the result of the recent trend of prices. The abrupt change over from a seller's to a buyer's market is reflected in the consumer resistance which the products of a number of industries are encountering at the moment. But once the necessary adjustments have been effected in production and prices it is hoped that the level of production will recover from its temporary set back.

The improvement in agricultural production has also been well maintained, although in the case of foodgrains the additional production from the Grow More Food schemes was more than offset by the fall in production in large areas of the country affected by drought or insufficient rains. Jute production has increased to 46·3 lakh bales, nearly thrice the quantity produced in 1947-48. Although the cotton crop was affected by adverse seasonal conditions, the yield is estimated at 33 lakh bales compared with 24 lakh bales in 1947-48. The production of sugar has shown a remarkable increase and is estimated at 13½ lakh tons as against 10¾ lakh tons in 1947-48. As the House is aware, a committee under the Chairmanship of Shri V. T. Krishnamachari is enquiring into the achievements of the Grow More Food campaign and the results of this enquiry are being awaited with keen interest.

The question has been frequently asked in recent weeks whether the fall in prices over the last few months is not an indication of the onset of a recession or even a depression. Personally I do not think that this is so, although I confess that in this matter, where so much depends on unpredictable

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world developments, it is hazardous to prognosticate. But I believe that most competent observers are of the view that the fall in prices represents in a sense the phase in which the inflationary trends which have been such a marked feature of world economy for the last so many years have been spent out and, in our country, countered by measures deliberately adopted to curb them. I do not subscribe to the view that at the present juncture the fall is a portent calling for the reckless injection of purchasing power into the country's economy. While it would be premature to talk of anything in the nature of a recession it is clear that prices have now reached a more stable level. I venture to suggest that a fall in prices is not *per se* a thing to be feared especially if it can be brought about in an orderly manner. It is only when it is of such a nature as to lead to a reduction in production and employment that it contains a threat to the country's economy. I need hardly assure the House that Government are most keenly alive to this danger and that they would take adequate steps, so far as lies in their power, to see that the level of production and employment is not adversely affected by a disorderly movement of prices.

I shall now digress to deal briefly with the country's balance of payments. Hon. Members may remember that both in the White Paper on the interim Budget and in my speech last February I drew attention to the fact that the balance of payments position during last year was not as favourable as in 1950. After taking into account the amounts drawn from the American Wheat Loan the deficit on current transactions for that year is likely to be of the order of Rs. 30 crores. This deficit has continued during the first four months of the current year and is reflected in the drop of Rs. 81 crores in the amount of our Sterling balances, between the end of December 1951 and the end of April 1952.

I do not want the House to gather the impression from this that this position was wholly unforeseen. Under the stimulus of the devaluation of the rupee and the boom in prices which followed the outbreak of the Korean war we had accumulated a substantial surplus in our balance of payments during 1950 and the early months of 1951. During this period we could not import as much as we could wish owing to the difficulty of obtaining supplies from abroad. In consequence, the domestic stocks of essential supplies had fallen to a low level and it became essential to take measures to restore the stocks by reducing exports, as for example of cotton textiles, oil and oil seeds, and by stepping up imports of raw materials and essential consumer goods. We also had to pay higher prices for whatever supplies we could obtain. The unavoidable increase in the import of foodgrains also contributed to the large import surplus during this period. It is not, therefore, a case of frittering away the country's assets; the deficit could be said to be, in a sense, a planned deficit. I might mention in this connection that till the end of last month the deficit on current transactions had been met wholly from the surplus accumulated by us in 1950 and early 1951 and we had not to draw on the release of £35 million for the year ending June 1952 under the Sterling Balances Agreement.

During recent months the rate of the deficit in our balance of payments has risen owing to a change in world conditions and the fall in the demand for some of our principal exports and their prices. I mentioned earlier the various steps taken in the field of export duties for stimulating exports and maintaining our export earnings. We have also considerably relaxed the procedure for the licensing of exports. It is difficult, when conditions are so fluid, to forecast the future trends which are affected, as they are bound to be, by conditions in world markets. But the House may rest assured that Government will take all possible steps to arrest and reverse the recent trends and maintain the deficit in the overall balance of payments within the amount available to us from the accumulated sterling balances.

A brief account of the deterioration during 1951 in the dollar position of this country and of the Sterling Area as a whole and the measures taken to stop the drain on the Central reserves has been given in the White Paper circulated with the budget papers. Although the measures taken by the Commonwealth Governments, following the meeting of their Finance Ministers in London last January, have not taken full effect, the rate of decline in the gold and dollar reserves of the Sterling Area has come down considerably in March 1952. In our own case it may be expected that the present relatively improved position in the stocks of wheat and raw cotton should enable us to reduce our dollar expenditure to some extent in the second half of this

year. It is also likely that the recent reduction in the export duty on hessian will stimulate exports. If the negotiations for loans from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which are in train, result in the grant of loans, this will also assist the country's dollar position.

I shall now pass on to the changes made in the Budget as presented to the Provisional Parliament. But before I do so I should like to mention a change in procedure in regard to the preparation of the Demands for Grants. It has been the practice so far, where any recoveries are, under the accounting rules, taken in reduction of the expenditure, to ask Parliament to vote the net sum under the demand. The recoveries so included in these Demands became, in effect, available for expenditure although they may have no direct relation to the sum actually spent during the year. This procedure has recently been examined in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor-General and it has been decided that in future the Demands for Grants should be presented for the gross amount of the expenditure, without regard to the recoveries that may come in during the course of the year. These recoveries will continue to be adjusted in the accounts as at present in reduction of the expenditure but, so far as the spending authorities are concerned, these will not be available to them and they will be answerable to Parliament for the gross amount of expenditure, which in a sense represents the real outgoings from the Consolidated Fund for which the authority of Parliament is required. I need hardly mention that this change does not involve any actual increase in expenditure. It is only a change in the method of presentation and I hope that the elimination of these recoveries from the Budgets of spending authorities will result in an improvement in the control of expenditure. A note explaining the changes made on this account in the Demands for Grants is being circulated with the Budget papers.

The Budget presented last February provided for a surplus of Rs. 18·73 crores on revenue account and an overall deficit of Rs. 56·35 crores, taking the revenue and capital Budgets together. I now estimate that the revenue surplus will be Rs. 3·73 crores and the overall deficit Rs. 75·6 crores. The fall of Rs. 15 crores in the revenue surplus is mainly due to a drop of Rs. 25 crores in the receipts from customs, which includes export duties, owing to the recent reduction in the export duty on hessian and sacking, raw cotton and cotton waste, and the abolition of the export duties on raw wool, groundnut oil, oil seeds, etc. This will be partly counterbalanced by an improvement of Rs. five crores in advance collections of income-tax. On the expenditure side, I expect a drop of Rs. five crores in civil expenditure, made up of a reduction of Rs. ten crores in the provision for food subsidies set off by a provision of Rs. five crores for grants, of which Rs. three crores represents the Central share of the expenditure on community development schemes sponsored under the Indo-U.S. Technical Co-operation Agreement and Rs. two crores is for subsidising industrial housing. I do not propose any other change in the revenue Budget at this stage. In the capital Budget I expect a worsening of Rs. 4·25 crores due to an additional provision of Rs. ten crores for loans to finance minor irrigation projects, Rs. five crores for loans for industrial housing, Rs. six crores for loans for the community development projects mentioned earlier and Rs 25 lakhs for investment in a machinery manufacturing corporation, which Government have under consideration, partly set off by the receipt of Rs. ten crores from the sale of American wheat carried over from last year, Rs. five crores from the sale proceeds of materials likely to be received under the Technical Co-operation Agreement and Rs. two crores of short-term loans returned by the State Governments. I do not think that the figures under the other heads in the Budget require to be changed.

Hon. Members will notice that I proposed to retain only a sum of Rs. 15 crores in the Budget for food subsidies out of the provision of Rs. 25 crores made in the Budget last February. This amount will, I expect, be sufficient for meeting the expenditure in accordance with the policy announced last February and the subsequent reduction in the price of milo. This reduction in food subsidies has led to protests and demonstrations from the sections of the public affected in the States. As I explained to the House at some length last Tuesday, after giving the most anxious consideration to these criticisms Government feel that the policy adopted by them is inescapable and will prove to be beneficial in the long term interests of the country. With the rise in the prices of imported supplies we shall require something of the order of Rs. 60 crores a year if, in addition to subsidising milo we are to maintain the subsidies in the industrial areas as in last year and last year's price level elsewhere. This by itself would place an impossi-

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the burden on the financial resources of the Centre. Even last year some States criticised vigorously the subsidisation of industrial urban areas while in the rural areas outside prices remained high. In the circumstances of the current year this gap would have been widened and there is little room for doubt that once a full subsidy for industrial urban areas is conceded there would be an equally clamant demand for a corresponding subsidy for rural areas. If the subsidy is to give the whole range of consumers prices charged in industrial areas in 1951, the cost would amount to something like Rs 90 crores a year. I am sure that there will be widespread agreement with the view that with so many competing claims upon our resources, particularly for development of our economy, calculated to secure more lasting benefits, it will be wasteful to spend sums of this order on consumption by subsidising food. It has also to be remembered that the increase in the price of foodgrains has to be considered against the background of the reduction in the general price level of other commodities, the benefit of which goes to the consumer. The movements in the working class cost of living indices at the various industrial urban centres show that the compensatory fall in the aggregate on these other commodities has been substantial. There is bound to be some measure of hardship, owing to the disturbance of family budgets, until the necessary adjustments are made. But this hardship is inevitable and Government are doing their best to mitigate it for the poorer classes for subsidising milo, wherever it is consumed. I regret I cannot hold out any hope of a relief, in the form of the restoration of any system of subsidies committing the Central exchequer to bringing about an approximation between the prices of imported and internally procured grain. But, as mentioned by the President in his Address to Parliament, Government are anxious that no distress should be caused and will do all in their power to prevent this from happening.

I shall now summarise the result of the changes which I mentioned earlier. The total revenue for the year is now estimated at Rs. 404·98 crores and the expenditure met from revenue at Rs. 401·25 crores (of which Rs. 197·95 crores will be on Defence Services and Rs. 203·3 crores under civil heads), leaving a surplus of Rs. 3·73 crores on revenue account. The capital and ways and means Budget is expected to show a deficit of Rs. 79·33 crores, leaving an overall deficit of Rs. 75·6 crores, taking the Budget as a whole. This will leave, at the end of the Budget year, a closing balance of Rs. 83.08 crores, of which roughly Rs. 40 crores will be the unspent balance of foreign aid received by us, the rest representing what any prudent management of the exchequer would need as a minimum bank balance for the order of financial operations involved.

Although the estimated revenue surplus has now been reduced by Rs. 15 crores and the overall budgetary deficit increased by Rs. 19.25 crores, I do not propose to make any changes in taxation. I expect I shall hear, in the course of the next few weeks, complaints both from Members of Parliament and from the public that I have given no concession to the taxpayer. The problem before me now is really not one of having any money to give away but of how to make good the net loss of resources which the changes I have proposed involve. In present circumstances, when for the first time in four years the ordinary citizen finds the price levels a little less irksome, there is so much to be accomplished for the development of the country and there is no clear indication of impunity for deficit financing. I do not feel that anyone would seriously suggest a reduction in taxation. In the last two years our revenues have been buoyant, largely on account of fortuitous and by no means welcome international developments while the calls on our resources for essential expenditure have been steadily rising. The recent developments in the economic situation, which have affected substantially our revenues from customs, underline the need for strengthening the country's revenue position as far as possible. It will be dangerous at this stage to do anything to weaken Government's revenue position and I have no doubt that there will be understanding support for this view.

This leads me to the question of economy in public expenditure to which Government's attention is being continuously drawn both in Parliament and outside. So far as the expenditure on Defence is concerned, while it is not possible to secure any further appreciable reduction in the size of the Defence Budget without a reduction in the size of the Army, which the needs of the country's security rule out for the present, the search for economy in this expenditure

has been continuously going on. As I mentioned when I presented the Budget last February, a critical examination of the organisation and equipment of the Armed Forces, as they exist today, has been undertaken. This examination, which is progressing satisfactorily, is expected to be completed in the next few months. The progress made in this examination and the tentative conclusions on some of the matters considered indicate the possibility of effecting some savings. A firm estimate is still not possible but I hope to be in a position to give the House an indication of this saving when I place before it, in due course, the revised estimates for this year.

I also mentioned that I had deputed one or two senior officers to conduct a similar enquiry into civil expenditure. This enquiry is still going on and it may be some time before its results are available. But I must make it clear that in an expanding economy like ours any saving realised in administrative expenditure is likely to be more than absorbed by increasing demands for developmental expenditure. It will be unwise to think that there is sufficient scope for economy to make possible a substantial reduction in taxation. While the departmental search for economy continues, I also look forward to continuing assistance from the labours of the Public Accounts and Estimates Committees in securing that, within the four corners of the policy laid down by Parliament, the moneys authorised to be spent by it are utilised to the best possible advantage and without avoidable waste.

As I mentioned earlier, at the end of the Budget year Government's cash balances would have dropped to approximately Rs. 83 crores, a drop of about Rs. 200 crores from the accumulated cash balances immediately after the partition. The bulk of this money has been spent on essential purposes and on the development of the country, and although there may be a difference of opinion as to whether every rupee of it has been well spent, few will deny that the expenditure has substantially been for the security or benefit of the country. The existence of these accumulated balances was a reserve which will not be available in future years, as the level of the free balances which we shall have reached at the end of March 1953, after omitting the unspent balance out of the foreign assistance, will, as I have already pointed out, leave Government only with the minimum balance which they ought to keep. For the future, therefore, on the assumption that the various indices do not point to the onset of a persistent recession, we shall have to raise currently all the money that we may need for meeting public expenditure and for the execution of the five-year plan. On any view of the future which one could take, there can be no room for complacency or for the relaxation of the efforts to raise the maximum amount of resources for the country's development. The Planning Commission has drawn up a realistic plan which would take us a definite step forward in the realisation of the larger and fuller life, without which freedom would be devoid of zest. We have received assistance from abroad for our development plan in recent months through the U.S. Technical Co-operation Agreement, the Ford Foundation, the Colombo Plan and so on. But while all this is welcome and while one may hope for an increasing flow of such assistance in the future, we have largely to rely on ourselves. The edifice of our prosperity cannot be built on props of outside assistance without sacrificing something vital in the nation's spirit but can be built enduringly only by the efforts of our own people. If the budgetary burdens are sometimes found to be irksome, I trust those who find it so in this House and outside will remember that we carry these burdens for ourselves and our children and not for someone else. I have no doubt that the realisation that the people of this country are doing the utmost in their power to help themselves will widen the flow of assistance from our friends outside.

The House then adjourned till a Quarter Past Eight of the Clock on Monday, the 26th May, 1952.